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Iraq Officially Condemns d'Amato Bill

ILAM — Iraq officially condemned the d'Amato Bill which allows the U.S. to impose economic sanctions on the Islamic Republic of Iran and Libya.

Radio Baghdad, quoting Iraqi Minister of Foreign Affairs Mohammad Saeed as-Sahaf, said that Washington by exerting pressure is trying to bring all countries under its domination and control.

According to the radio, monitored here, the Iraqi minister made it clear that his country supports all countries which oppose the bill.

Arafat Protests Israeli Settler Move

GAZA CITY — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat responded angrily to Israel's decision to allow hundreds of new trailers to be set up in Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

Palestinian officials also played down Israel's decision to resume some negotiations with the Palestinian Authority (PA) this week, saying the move did not represent serious progress for the peace process.

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Even Stronger Sanctions Not to Affect Our Economy



Photo: Abbas Takin

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Despite its past defeats, the U.S. is shamelessly trying to deal a blow on the Islamic Revolution, President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said here yesterday.

Our market has been regulated in a manner that even an intensified U.S. embargo cannot have any effect on it.

Speaking to the Iranian diplomats who called on him yesterday, he added, the recent international developments are not justifiable for world public opinion. The righteousness of the Islamic Revolution has convinced the world to challenge U.S. hegemonic drives which

(Contd on Pg.14)

Velayati: Iran to Teach U.S. a Lesson If It Attacks

CAIRO — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said the Islamic Republic of Iran will teach the United States a lesson if the superpower launches a military attack against Iran.

"We are going to defend our country and teach a lesson to the aggressor it will never forget" if the U.S. attacks Iran, Velayati was quoted as saying in the bi-weekly Egyptian Islamic-opposition newspaper *Al-Shaab*.

"The eight years of war with Iraq showed that our people do not fold in the face of aggression," and "we are going to defend our country with all our might," he added.

Asked about the United States' new d'Amato Law banning foreign companies from investing $40 million or more in Iran's and Libya's oil and gas sectors, Velayati said his country "is not

(Contd on Pg.14)

Iran Files Complaint Against U.S. d'Amato Bill

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The Islamic Republic of Iran filed a complaint over d'Amato Act according to which the U.S. will impose sanctions against any foreign entity that invests in the Iranian or Libyan oil sector, the tribunal announced Tuesday.

Iran also asked the tribunal to prevent the U.S. from implementing a 20-million-dollar under-cover action plan approved by the U.S. Congress in December in a bid to fight against the Islamic Republic of Iran, AFP reported from The Hague.

"Iran requested the tribunal to render interim measures to prevent the United States from enforcing and implementing these acts," Zahedin Labba, an Iranian representative before the court said.

He charged that the United States was violating provisions of the Algeria Agreement, referring to a 1981 non-interference pact signed between the two countries.

The accord, which led to the claims tribunal being set up, resulted in the release of the 52 hostages being held at the time in the U.S. Embassy in Tehran.

"The United States pledged in

(Contd on Pg.14)

China Slams U.S. Reports of Arms Proliferation

BEIJING — China Tuesday slammed as "groundless" U.S. reports that Beijing was violating international treaties on the production of nuclear and biological weapons, Xinhua reported.

The U.S. press reports are "absolutely groundless" Foreign Ministry spokesman Shen Guofang said, calling on Washington "to stop this kind of irresponsible action immediately, and do its bit for the promotion of Sino-U.S. ties."

He said that according to the reports, the U.S. arms control and disarmament agency said China "might be continuing" activities that violate the treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

The supposed activities could also breach the convention of the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of biological and toxin weapons, Shen said.

The allegations were contained in a report submitted to the U.S. Congress, the official news agency reported, giving no further details.

(AFP)

Syria Rejects Netanyahu's Proposal

BAIT-UL-MOQADDAS — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, striving to convince Syria to resume peace negotiations with Israel, has hinted he could accept a compromise over the future of the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights.

"I want all the Golan, and they want all the Golan. What comes out of (negotiations), no one can say," Netanyahu told Palestinian journalists in remarks broadcast on Israeli public radio Tuesday.

Netanyahu's spokesman stressed that the government's position remained that it sought to resume negotiations with Syria without preconditions but that the starting point for Israel was that it intends to retain control over the Golan.

"Each side can return to the negotiating table with its demands. Israel's position is that the Golan should remain under its control," he said.

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shara reiterated on Monday that Syria would only resume negotiations on the basis of the "land for peace" principle which would return sovereignty over the Golan to Damascus.

Israel seized the strategic heights during the 1967 Middle East war and annexed it in 1981.

Uzi Landau, chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs and a leading hardliner in Netanyahu's Likud Party, told Israel radio Tuesday that the prime minister had already indicated a willingness to compromise over the Golan prior to his May 29 election.

"He has already hinted that the Israeli-Syrian border could pass through the Golan," he said, adding that he regretted this position.

Since coming to office at the head of a rightwing coalition government, Netanyahu has proposed

(Contd on Pg.14)

China's Company to Insure Credit for Tehran Metro

BEIJING — China's largest Insurance Company has won a $450 million contract to provide export buyers credit insurance for Tehran's subway, currently under construction by a Chinese consortium, the *China Daily reported*.

In an agreement signed Monday in Beijing, People's Insurance (Property) Co Ltd, an arm of the People's Insurance Company of China (PICC) signed a contract with 10 Chinese banks and four import and export companies.

The deal to insure credits for the $530 million subway is the largest signed by PICC, the paper said, and takes its promised insurance for export products to more than five billion dollars.

"Export credit has become an indispensable way to improve the country's foreign trade and a guarantee for export companies to bid for large overseas construction projects," the paper quoted

(Contd on Pg.14)

Erbakan Holds Formal Talks With Bhutto

ISLAMABAD — Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan and his Pakistani counterpart Benazir Bhutto held wide-ranging talks here Tuesday on bilateral matters, the regional situation and international issues, officials said.

Before their formal talks,

(Contd on Pg.14)



ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (August 12): Turkey's Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan (R) along with his Pakistani counterpart Benazir Bhutto inspect a guard of honor upon his arrival in Islamabad. Erbakan arrived in Pakistan on a three-day official visit and will hold a "wide range" of talks with Bhutto on bilateral, regional and international issues.

(AFP PHOTO)

Hekmatyar Announces Cease-Fire With Dostum

KABUL — Afghan Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar announced a ceasefire between his beleaguered Kabul government and one of its main rivals in the war-torn country.

He also revealed warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostum, who controls northern Afghanistan, had promised to reopen Kabul's most vital road artery linking it to the north.

The cease-fire, which analysts said marked a symbolic success for

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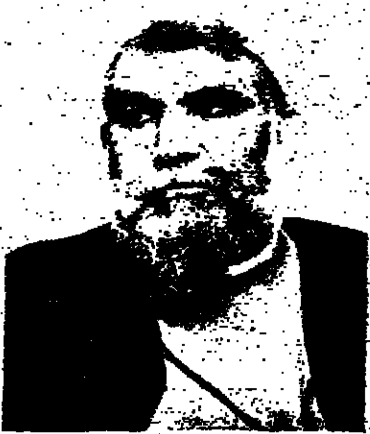
AKHTARI: Syrian Not to Bow Down Before Israel

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Iranian Ambassador to Syria, Mohammad Hassan Akhtari, here described the stalled Middle East "peace process" a complicated issue, and further blamed Netanyahu's hostile policies as contributing to its tarnished image.

On the achievements of the Madrid Summit, Akhtari underlined that the negotiations in that Spanish capital have only resulted in a stalemate because of the insistence of the Zionist regime on its expansionist policies.

He further deplored the many issues that the Madrid Summit failed to address such as the issue of Qods as the first *Qibla* of Muslims and the regrettable treatment accorded to Palestinian refugees.



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In the Name of Allah

And certainly We created you, then We fashioned you, then We said to the angels: Make obeisance to Adam. So they did obeisance except Iblis; he was not of those who did obeisance.

(HOLY QORAN)(7:11)

OPINION

The Burden of Diplomacy

Iranian diplomats accredited in various countries abroad are again back home for the annual Foreign Ministry diplomats' seminar.

The main objective of the seminar, according to Foreign Ministry officials, is to update the diplomats on the country's priorities in foreign policy.

In today's world, foreign policy is the determining factor in the success of any administration. It is said to have made or unmade governments and leaders have openly given it the utmost priority.

The foreign ministry of any state is the agency which crystalizes its foreign policy and by which its relations with other countries are conducted. It receives the reports of its diplomats abroad which are then collated, evaluated and acted upon as the raw materials by which the country's foreign policy is shaped. Conversely, it is also the source of policy instructions by which diplomats are to make decisions and conduct their activities abroad.

The complexity, diversity and importance of interstate relations in the modern world require an increasingly higher standard of education, selection, training and professionalism on the part of accredited diplomats. Haphazard recruitment of foreign ministry personnel and appointment of diplomats wreck havoc on the fate of a country's diplomacy.

The standard procedure for the recruitment of would-be diplomats is by administering competitive foreign service exams. The areas that are tested are those which will determine applicants' possession of the knowledge, experience and skills required for the sensitive job. Our Foreign Ministry should seriously consider its own method of recruiting its personnel.

It may not be amiss to remind our diplomats abroad that integrity is and has always been a durable factor on the job. Also, in today's world, the state of the economy and technology back home are the diplomats' most effective weapons of diplomacy abroad.

Diplomacy is not a game for the naive and the inexperienced. Successful diplomacy depends on a balance of the most effective powers of persuasion and coercion to win a prospective ally. At the same time, headstrong bullies in today's global race for supremacy can be humbled through a policy of self-reliance in raw materials, products and technology.

Iran is lucky to have an abundance of the world's durable resources—oil, gold and a fertile soil, etc. It becomes incumbent on its diplomats to develop the intangible groundwork for more rewarding relationship with countries sharing its beliefs and respecting its aspirations. In other words, our diplomats should be top salesmen abroad by giving the world a true picture of a strong Islamic Republic today.

Last but not the least, our diplomats should be conduits for increased trade and economic relations with their accredited states. The strength of our economy can best be measured by our volume of trade with other countries. To reduce our dependence on oil income and, indirectly our dependence on countries that buy our oil, we must strengthen our exports. For our diplomats, the stakes are high but the rewards will be generous.

200 Kazakh Nationals Return Home

ALMATY — Another group of Kazakhs who had lived in Iran for decades have returned to their fatherland, it was announced here on Monday.

The group included 200 Kazakh men and women who had been living in Gonbad city in Mazandaran Province of Iran.

According to print media in Almaty, the group is to settle in the western province of Mangistaw and the coastal regions of the Caspian Sea where their ancestors used to live before leaving for Iran.

In his first visit to Iran, four years ago, Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev had asked his Iranian counterpart to help facilitate voluntarty return of ethnic Kazakhs living in the country, a request which was accepted.

During Nazarbayev's second trip to Iran in May, migrant Kazakhs voiced satisfaction over years of living in the country and coexistance with Iranians. (IRNA)

Greek FM Due in Tehran Soon

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Greek Foreign Minister Theodoros Pangalos is to pay a visit to Tehran August 21.

Greek Foreign Ministry announced Monday night that in his two-day visit Pangalos will be heading a delegation.

During his visit, the Greek foreign minister is to discuss ways to expand Tehran-Athens mutual relations with the Iranian officials.

Iran Hails Normalization of Kabul-Islamabad Ties

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes normalization of relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan, said Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Oceania Affairs Alaeddin Boroujerdi here Tuesday.



BOROUJERDI

In a joint press statement issued at the end of a meeting between senior Afghan delegation led by Interior Minister Younis Qanouni and Pakistani Foreign Minister Aseff Ahmed Ali, the two sides agreed to reopen the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul.

It was also decided that a Pakistani fact-finding mission be dispatched to Afghanistan to assess the extent of damage inflicted on the Pakistani Embassy compound.

In an interview with IRNA, Boroujerdi said that normalization of Islamabad-Kabul ties has always been in the agenda of Iran's foreign policy.

Referring to his numerous visits to Afghanistan aimed at establishing peace and tranquility in that country, he noted that one of major issues discussed with Afghan officials was normalization of their relations with Pakistan.

Undoubtedly, he reiterated, cooperation of Afghanistan's neighbors will be crucial in ending bloodshed and war and restoration of peace and stability to Afghanistan.

Boroujerdi further expressed hope that Islamabad's decision to normalize relations with Kabul will have positive impact on settlement of Afghan crisis.

Last summer the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul was attacked by a group of mobs and one embassy guard was killed and several others were injured in the incident. Following the incident relations between the two neighboring countries deteriorated.

Velayati Receives Outgoing Finnish Ambassador

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The outgoing Ambassador of Finland Eero Saarikoski calkd on Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati here Tuesday to bid farewell to him.

Stressing regional and international importance of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the ambassador called for further exchange of delegations between Iran and Finland, IRNA reported.

Terming the prospect of the two countries' relations as bright, Velayati expressed hope that the new Finnish ambassador to Tehran will be successful in strengthening and broadening Tehran-Helsinki relations.

Bangladeshi Association Deplores Washington's Measure Against Iran

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — In a statement issued in Dhaka Monday the Association of Bangladeshi Lawyers condemned U.S. recent measure against Iran and Libya, an IRNA report said.

Clinton's move against the Islamic Republic of Iran and Libya is illogical and against the international trade laws, said the statement.

The statement added that the Clinton administration intends to control world energy resources and destroy the Iranian and Libyan economics so that they may not be in a position to help the poor Muslim nations.

The U.S. measure against Iran and Libya is unjust and certainly will provoke anti-U.S. sentiments among the world Muslims because the U.S. officials have no evidence showing that Iran or Libya are directly or indirectly involved in terrorist activities, added the statement.

The statement further added that the U.S. by ignoring world Muslims' feelings is trying to create tension in the Middle East to justify its presence in the region.

Ghayasuddin Confers With Interior Minister

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Head of the Britain's Muslim Parliament Muhammad Ghayasuddin here Monday met with the Iranian Interior Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati, IRNA reported.

In the meeting, Ghayasuddin said that future belonged to Islam and that West is undergoing an internal disintegration."

He stressed on Muslim unity saying, "We, the Muslim community must direct our efforts in the preservation of unity and solidarity," adding, "Only under those circumstances we can expect the divine blessings to be bestowed upon us."

Referring to the 30 million Muslim residents of the northern and western Europe, Ghayasuddin attached great importance to the formation of the Islamic centers.

Saying that Imam Khomeini's *fatwa* about the apostate Salman Rushdie, was a source of blessing for the British and European Muslims he pointed that the *fatwa* further strengthened the Islamic organizations throughout the world.

Besharati in response, said, "We believe that the only panacea to remedy all the ills of the mankind, is to resort to the Holy Qoran."

Iran's interior minister stated that the news and reports by the world media and agencies proved beyond all doubt that people in the world are becoming more and more religious oriented as time passes.

Turky, Iran Discuss Cultural Cooperation

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Ways to improve cultural cooperation between Iran and Turkey was discussed in a meeting between the Iranian Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Mostafa Mirsalim and Turkish Minister of State for Religious Affairs Nevzat Ercan here Monday.

According to IRNA, in the meeting the two sides also discussed subjects such as cooperation in the areas of religious and cultural affairs, setting up of common exhibitions in field of Qoranic sciences, manuscripts, commentaries and cooperation in the area of compilation and preparation of an Islamic encyclopedia.

At the meeting, the Iranian and Turkish top officials also reviewed matters related to tourism, pilgrimage trips, and setting up of scientific periodical seminars.

Delivery Deadline of Illegal Arms Extended

TEHRAN — Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei on Monday accepted a proposal on giving an extra two-month extension to the deadline for delivery of illegal arms and ammunitions throughout the country.

The proposal was made by the Head of the Judiciary Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi.

The Leader had granted amnesty for those possessing illegal arms and ammunitions to hand them over to the police stations till August 12. (IRNA)

Egypt Views Turkey's New Orientation as Positive

ATHENS — Egyptian media Monday gave prominent coverage to the landmark visit of Turkey's Islamist Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

State-run daily *Al-Ahram*'s main front-page report carried the title "Signing of Iranian-Turkish Gas Agreement Today Amid Accusations That Turkey Is Challenging the American Policy."

The report, accompanied by a photo of Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani greeting Erbakan in Tehran Sunday, said the Turkish premier called for a summit between Turkey, Iran, Syria and Iraq.

The daily noted that the U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is to discuss the Turkish-Iranian deal with Turkish Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller urgently.

Al-Ahram, which expresses official Egyptian views, in its editorial described the new Turkish government's attempts to resolve problems and improve relations with her neighbors like Iran, Syria and Iraq as "positive." And "a correct formula" to close the doors of tension in the region.

The Turkish premier during his visit to Tehran stressed the strategic importance of relations between the two Muslims countries, despite the severe tensions in Amercican-Iranian relations, said the paper.

The Egyptian Satellite Channel (ESC) said Iran and Turkey today (Monday) signed a $20 billion gas deal despite the American sanctions. It also noted that Erbakan called for a summit between Turkey, Iran, Syria and Iraq.

Opposition daily *Al-Wafd* in its first-page title said, "International Fears on Renewal of Crisis of the 70's in the Oil Market."

"War of interests between Europe and America leads to increase in oil price. Turkish prime minister challenges Washington, and seeks to buy electricity and oil from Iran," *Al-Wafd* said.

Another opposition daily, *Al-Ahrar*, said America was closely watching Erbakan's visit to Tehran.

In a separate article, *Al-Ahrar* said the U.S. wants to attack Iran not because of terrorism, but firstly because of an 'ideological war,' secondly Iran is against the American occupation of the Persian Gulf region, and thirdly the U.S. wants to take revenge for her defeat when it attacked Iran during the rule of Imam Khomeini. (IRNA)

U.S. Sanctions on Iran a Selfish Move: Indian Daily

NEW DELHI — "The recent act of imposing sanctions on Iran by the U.S. is a move in self-interest, harnessing its ego by weakening Iran economically and, at the same time, preventing European allies from developing friendly relations with that country," says the *Dawat*, an Urdu daily of India.

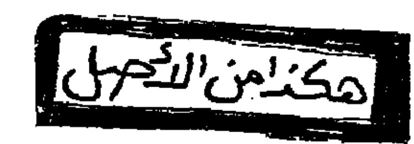
Dawat's front-page article, "The Selfishness of American Administration," adds that on one hand the U.S. wants to punish Iran and on the other it wants to tighten its rule over Europe. Hence, the sanctions on the companies doing business with Iran.

Dawat notes that the sharp reaction of the European countries, Japan and Russia to the U.S. legislation has been exemplary.

"Russia and Japan call it illegal. Italy has described it as not worthy of taking any notice and France has threatened to impose counter sanctions on American companies," it said.

The European countries perceive a negative fallout on their industrial development if the sanctions work. They receive almost 20 percent of their oil import from Libya and Iran. They would not, therefore, like to see that their supplies — so vital to their economies — from Iran and Libya disrupted, says the article.

"Yet, the U.S. is not willing to reasonably consider the opposition of Europe, Japan and other countries to the sanctions. It is blinded by its single-point program of punishing Iran. And this speaks volumes on U.S. selfishness in achieving its foreign policy goals," concludes *Dawat*. (IRNA)



4th Tabriz Int'l Trade Fair Opens



TABRIZ — Majlis Speaker Hojjatoleslam Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri (C) is seen visiting the 4th Tabriz Trade Fair. Photo: Kaveh Ahmadi

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - The Fourth Tabriz International Trade Fair opened at presence of the Majlis Speaker Hojjatoleslam Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri.

At the inauguration ceremony, Nateq Nouri said that holding various trade fairs paves the way for exhibiting potentials of the provinces in different fields, IRNA reported.

The speaker, who is in Tabriz on an inspection tour of the province, added that holding of trade exhibition is the best way for mobilizing producers to become engaged in a healthy competition.

Also speaking in the ceremony ,Commerce Minister, Yahya Al-e-Eshaq, said that international trade fairs provide the best channel for demonstrating economic potentials of the country and also amity among nations.

Some 540 local and 27 foreign companies, mainly, from Japan, Germany, Russia, Italy and South Korea, have put their products on display during the one-week fair.

Bandar Anzali Holds Int'l Exhibit

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - The second international trade exhibit was held in the provincial town of Bandar Anzali on August 1-7 with participation of 130 domestic and foreign companies, IRNA reported.

Businessmen from Austria, Georgia, Pakistan, Azerbaijan Republic and the Chamber of Commerce of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) attended the trade exhibit and signed various agreements with Iranian businessmen on export and import of their products.

An official in charge of holding the international trade exhibit said the exhibit had been successful in terms of high number of agreements signed between the Iranian and foreign companies.

Investment Conference to Be in Central Asian Muslim Republics

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Four Central Asian Muslim republics will in September hold a series of investment conferences to be attended by Muslim businessmen and financiers to explore investment opportunities in the region, Saudi daily *Arab News* reported.

The investment conference, four in all, is organized by the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank (IDB) to encourage the flow of capital into the region, said IDB President Ahmed Muhammad Ali, quoted by *Arab News*.

The conferences will be held in Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan with the first taking place in the Kazakh capital, Alma-Ata, on September 16.

It will be followed two days later by one in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan. The other two will be held on Sept. 19 and 20 in Ashkabad and Baku, capitals of Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan respectively.

Businessmen from Saudi Arabia, the Persian Gulf states and other Muslim countries are expected to attend.

U.S. Antagonism Biggest Risk to Oil Price Stability

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - North Sea oil prices surged Monday morning with Brent benchmark crude rising 60 cents to 20.55 dollars per barrel (bpd), confirming worries about the increasing bellicose mood in the U.S.

Industry analysts and traders expect rates to remain firm in the short term, having accepted that market fears of a price collapse following last week's approval of the UN oil-for-aid deal with Iraq have proved over-pessimistic.

In its latest world oil report, Kleinwort Benson research said that the greatest single risk to oil price stability was the "increasingly confrontationist approach being adopted by the U.S. administration towards certain oil producers, especially Iran."

The main problem, it said, was that Iran and Libya were becoming increasingly embroiled in the so-called anti-terrorism debate in the U.S. and had "become so heated that logical argument no longer seems to matter."

The potentially dangerous state of affairs was illustrated recently when U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry suggested a plot was being hatched to frame Iran in June's Dhahran bombing and threatened a firm response.

Kleinwort Benson believed there was no doubt that those undertaking the current investigation will be influenced by the increasing U.S. bellicose mood and might well be tempted to see a conspiracy "even if there is little hard evidence."

Especially with U.S. presidential elections ahead, it saw a risk that domestic political pressures might force Clinton into undertaking military action against Iran, but warned that it would lead to a surge in oil prices.

The report said that if it were to happen, Iran would "undoubtedly seek ways and means of responding in one way or another" and that such a situation would raise the question of the stability of the Persian Gulf oil supplies.

Group Urges Closer Infrastructure Ties With Hong Kong

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The Beijing-selected committee to oversee Hong Kong's economy during its transfer to Chinese sovereignty has urged closer infrastructure links with the mainland, Xinhua reported from Beijing on Monday as quoted by AFP.

Members of the economic panel of the preparatory committee of the Hong Kong special administrative region, who finished their two-day meeting in Beijing Monday, also called for closer ties on economic development plans.

"As Hong Kong will be more closely related to China's inland areas in its transportation, port and economy, in the future contacts between the two sides should be increased when formulating strategies, to make it fit Hong Kong's future development," the news agency quoted the members as saying.

They also called for opinions to be broadly solicited from the Hong Kong people.

Hong Kong's Secretary for Environment and Lands, Bowen Leung, and its Director of Planning, Peter Pun addressed the meeting and briefed the delegates on land, transportation and environment in the coming decade.

The neighboring special economic zone of Shenzhen also gave a briefing on a corridor link between Hong Kong and the Boom city.

On Saturday, Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen sought to calm fears over Hong Kong's future under Chinese rule by pledging that groups politically opposed to Beijing could join the selection process for Hong Kong's post-transition government. The British colony of Hong Kong reverts to Chinese control on July 1, 1997.

Iran, Germany to Invest in Foodstuff Industries

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Iran and Germany are to make joint investments in production of foodstuffs based on a contract ratified last week.

Public Relations Office of the Industries Ministry announced here Monday that a German company along with its Iranian trade partner would invest 13 million marks for production of foodstuffs within the framework of the contract.

At least 55 percent of the products would be for the purpose of export to regional countries.

Jihad Exports Over 90% of Its Carpet Production

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Weavers affiliated to Construction Jihad produce some two million square meters of carpet annually, 90 percent of which is being exported to other countries, it was announced here on Monday.

According to the head of the Central Union of Carpet Weavers of Iran, which is supervised by Construction Jihad, the carpets were so far being exported only to Germany. He added that measures have been taken to have Iranian carpets exported to South Africa, Canada, Mexico, parts of Europe, Greece and Lebanon, IRNA reported.

He also said that a plan has been launched to modify carpet weaving hand tools and to sanitize the hand woven carpet producing workshops, adding that some 60 similar workshops in the rural areas of the country have been covered by the plan called "survival".

The official expressed hope that carpet exports be boosted by the end of the Iranian calendar year (started March 21 1997).

Nateq-Nouri Calls For Removal of Trade Barriers

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Oil is not a durable backbone for Iran's economy, said Majlis Speaker Ali-Akbar Nateq-Nouri at the Non-Oil Export Seminar in Tabriz on Monday.

Hojjatoleslam Nateq-Nouri called for offering of practical strategies to remove problems and obstacles on the way of non-oil commodities' export as well as adoption of a lasting policy to strengthen non-oil exports, IRNA reported.

He said that Iran's carpet weaving art dates back to 1,000 years ago with Iran's carpet export starting since 400 years ago.

Moreover, he called for qualitative improvement of packaging, processing of certain export-oriented industrial and mineral products, improvement of public opinion on exports and removal of certain customs intricacies.

Meanwhile, Commerce Minister Yahya Al-e-Eshaq said at the ceremony that Iran's share in the global economy had dropped down to 0.4 percent this year from 0.69 percent in the year 1368 (March 21, 1988 March 20, 1989).

Calling as "unjust" Iran's share in the world economy, Al-e-Eshaq said that the least share for Iran in the world economy was 1.5 percent.

He said that the ground had been prepared for exports thanks to fruition of investments in the infrastructural sectors.

He added that efforts had been made to remove trade barriers.

The three-day seminar is underway in Tabriz and attended by over 70 experts, university instructors, heads of the chambers of commerce and officials in charge of export.

Romania for Expansion of Trade Exchange with Iran

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - In a meeting in Bucharest on Monday with the Iranian Ambassador to Romania, Seyed Mahmoud Sadri, the Romanian Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu called for further expansion of economic and trade cooperation between his country and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Vacaroiu indicated that both Iranian and Romanian officials had assessed the potentialities of the two nations and their determination was a decisive factor in the materialization of mutual wishes, IRNA reported.

The Romanian premier talked about the forthcoming session of the Irano-Romania Economic and Technical Joint Commission to be held in Tehran in the autumn of the current year.

Vacaroiu finally pointed out that his country had overcome its difficulties through economic reforms and that it has hard currency available in millions of dollars with an aim of boosting its trade exchange with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Al-Ghazali Lauds Iran's Achievements

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Libyan Charge d'Affaires to Tehran Mohammad Sharif al-Ghazali said here Monday that the Islamic Republic of Iran saw the materialization of numerous economic and industrial achievements over recent years.

Al-Ghazali said that foreign diplomats were witnessing the inauguration and the operation of scores of infrastructural economic, industrial and development projects in Iran every month, IRNA reported.

He added that Libyan delegation which made regular shuttle trips to Iran, admired the expeditious attainments brought about in all areas, especially in the economic and development sectors, in Iran.

He said that materialization of such projects was based on foresight, sound management, seriousness and ceaseless efforts of the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Libyan diplomat said that implementation of such giant projects and Iran's active presence in the region, especially in Central Asian republics, was source of honor for the world Muslims and Muslim nations.

He said that with the implementation of giant national projects, Iran is now witnessing progress and advancement in all the economic, cultural and social spheres.

He pointed out in light of these achievements, the enemies of the Islamic Republic of Iran, specifically the United States, use utmost precaution in dealing with Iran.

"What is interesting to me as a diplomat is observing Iranians' self-confidence in implementing giant national development projects, proper chanalization and utilization of the national wealth, facilities and other potentials," underlined the Libyan diplomat.

UK Firm in Turkmen Oil Deal

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Monument Oil and Gas has signed an exploration and production sharing agreement for three oil fields in Turkmenistan.

Under the deal, the British firm will keep 60 percent of oil produced at new wells on a gradually reducing base that will fall to 10 percent in years to come. The remainder, as well as existing oil production, will belong to the Turkmen government.

According to the *Financial Times*, Monument has pledged investments of up to $50 million in the early stages of what is its first contract in the Central Asia but said that the total could rise to $300 million.

The company is hoping to start boosting production by the end of the year. No figures were quoted about the fields' reserves or output targets.

Turkmenistan is estimated to have some 700 millions tons of oil and the world's fourth largest reserves of natural gas, which are thought to total around eight trillion meters.

Its commitment to export its production through Iran has been previously quoted as being used to dissuade U.S. oil firms from investing.

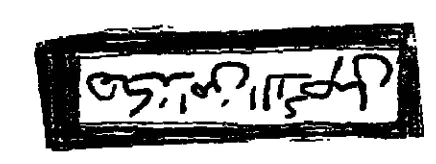
Last year, British Energy Minister Tim Eggar returned from leading the first UK trade delegation to Turkmenistan, indicating British firms had no objections of being involved in plans to ship gas to Europe via a pipeline through Iran and Turkey.

Kabul-Islamabad Ties

Ghayasuddin Confe... Interior Ministe...

Turkey's New Orien... as Positive

U.S. Sanctions on Iran... Move: Indian Del...



ISESCO: 'Encyclopedia of Islam' Undergoes Thorough Revision

ATHENS — The Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) has started publishing a series of documented studies aimed at correcting the errors contained in the *Encyclopedia of Islam*, published by Brill, in Ledien, Holland.

The encyclopedia, successively published in several European languages, is a model of references adopted by Western scholars.

The corrective study falls under the Rabat-based ISESCO's culture program titled "Correction of erroneous information published on Islam and among Muslims."

According to the latest ISESCO newsletter, the first part of this series has been prepared by Dr. Ali Muhieddine al-Qurrah Daghi, from the University of Qatar, who has been commissioned by ISESCO.

Dr. Abdul Aziz Altwaijri, ISESCO's director general, in his foreword to the series states that the encyclopedia comprises studies on Islam written either by orientalists or by Arabs and Muslims who follow the orientalist's research methods.

Altwaijri goes on to say that the writings are rife with flagrant errors, sometimes unintentional and sometimes deliberate.

He said that ISESCO has reviewed the encyclopedia, tracing its deviations and errors and endeavoring to check all the accusations, allegations and fallacies it includes for the sake of intellectual impartiality and scientific objectivity.

ISESCO has approached a number of eminent Muslim scholars and entrusted them with the task of redressing errors in the European encyclopedia with full impartiality and objectivity.

The first part of the series in Arabic is being translated into English and French for distribution to relevant academic circles and institutions all over the world. *(IRNA)*

Iranian Films Fest, Berkeley University

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Nine Iranian Films produced during the recent years will be screened in an all-Iranian film festival in America.

Organized by the world renowned Berkeley University's Faculty of Visual Arts, the festival will span from August 10 to 25 according to a fax message received here at *Tehran Times* from the Public Relations Department of the Farabi Cinema Foundation.

Abbas Kiarostami's 'Where Is the Friend's Home?' and 'Life Goes on...' as well as Mohsen Makhmalbaaf's 'The Actor' are among the films to be screened at the Festival.

Some of the other films to hit the silver screen at Berkeley include Shahram Asadi's 'The Fateful Day', Rakhshaan Bani E'etemad's 'The Blue-Scaved', 'Zinat' by Ebrahim Mokhtari, 'Pari' by Dariush Mehrjou'ie, 'The Travelers' by Bahram Beizai, and 'Kimia' by Ahmad Reza Darvish.

Sunken Viking Ship Found in the Gulf of Finland



ROME — Italian archeologists have found the sunken wreck of a Viking ship dating from the 9th or 10th century off the Russian coast in the Gulf of Finland.

The archeologists said they had recovered various parts of the sunken vessel, including a piece of cloth believed to have been used to stop up a hole in the keel. A similar piece of cloth was found on another Viking ship discovered previously.

The wreck was located five days ago in the Dalnaja Bay area of the Gulf of Finland which the archeologists said was already a major trading route in Viking times. The Vikings established control over the so-called "Amber Route" along Russian waterways to southern Europe in the 8th century.

The archeologists said they hoped to date the ship more precisely using the carbon-14 dating method. *(AFP)*

114 More Charged in Taiwan's Worst Video Game Scandal

TAIPEI — A Taiwan court Friday indicted 114 more people, including high-ranking police officers, in connection with the nation's worst multi-million dollar video-gambling scandal, a prosecutor said.

Twenty-eight people have already been charged in two previous indictments with graft and other offences in connection with the case which involves an underground video gambling network.

Since coming to light in April, the scandal has forced the resignations of Taiwan's top police officer, Yen Shih-Hsi, from the National Police Administration and of Huang Ting-Tsan from the Taipei police headquarters.

The 20 police officers charged with corruption Friday included Tseng Chi-Shui, former head of the International Airport Police Bureau, and Ma Chen-Hua, former chief of the special force responsible for cracking down on illegal video game parlors.

Another 94 people were accused of offering bribes, gambling, forgery and violating accounting and company laws, prosecutor Ho kuang-Jen said.

Ho sought a 15-year jail term and a two million Taiwan dollar ($72,272) fine for Tseng, who allegedly received 9.8 million dollars in bribes over two years from Chou Jen-Sen, head of the underground gambling network.

Tseng also abused his position by investing in Chou's operations and covering Chou's smuggling of illicit video game parts, Ho said.

The prosecutor also asked for a

(Contd on Pg. 15)

China: Dalai Lama Supported Chinese Move Into Tibet

BEIJING — China launched a fresh and bitter attack Friday on a recent address by the Dalai Lama to Britain's Parliament, in which he said China had invaded Tibet and now occupies it under colonial rule.

In a four-part article carried by the official Xinhua News Agency, China said the Dalai Lama supported an agreement to send the People's Liberation Army (PLA) into Tibet and criticized him for claiming otherwise.

"The Dalai Lama should not deny the fact that in 1951, he signed a telegram expressing his support for the March of the PLA troops into Tibet," the official news agency said.

Ngapoi Ngawang Jime, a retired Tibetan official, was quoted as saying: "The central government sent troops into Tibet in accordance with the agreement, so there does not exist the question of one party forcing another to do anything."

In 1951 Ngapoi was "appointed by the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan local government" to lead talks with China and says be clearly remembers that on October 24, 1951 the Dalai Lama telegrammed China's then President Mao Tse-Tong to express his support for the army's entry into Tibet.

Friday's attack comes only two days after Beijing slammed London for creating the notion of Tibetan independence during British colonial expansion, accusing the Dalai Lama of being a tool of anti-China forces.

China has warned that Sino-British relations will be adversely affected by the Tibetan spiritual leader's visit to London in July, when he addressed the Parliamentary inter-party group on Tibet in the House of Commons.

Although most Tibetans welcomed the arrival of the Chinese Army in 1951, following years of interference from imperial powers Britain and Russia, harsh Chinese repression led to an abortive uprising in 1959, when the Dalai Lama fled to India.

The Dalai Lama remains the spiritual head of Tibetan Buddhism, but China has launched a series of fierce campaigns denouncing him.

In June, China called off a visit by German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel when the German Parliament passed a motion expressing concern at Chinese repression in Tibet. *(AFP)*

Indians Burn Clinton's Effigy Sympathizing With Iran

NEW DELHI — Indian Muslim youth and students held anti-U.S. demonstration and burned the effigy of U.S. President Bill Clinton in New Delhi yesterday to protest against the d'Amato law which imposes sanctions on companies investing $40 million or more in oil and gas sectors of Iran and Libya.

The demonstration, organized by the All India Muslim Youth and students council, condemned the U.S. action, with the participants chanting anti-U.S. slogans such as "Down with U.S.A" and "Long live Iran and Libya."

Flaying the U.S. move, Younus Siddiqui, the President of the council, said, "In fact it is the U.S. of America which is spearheading the terrorism worldwide."

He added, Iran and Libya have openly condemned terrorism at international levels.

Describing the U.S. legislation as 'shocking', Siddiqui said 'America can suppress some countries some times, but not all the countries all the times.'

The council also adopted a resolution which appealed to all heads of state, political and social organizations and individuals 'to condemn the dictatorial attitude of U.S.' *(AFP)*

English Idioms & Their Farsi Equivalents

Lesson 16:

TEHRAN TIMES SERVICE

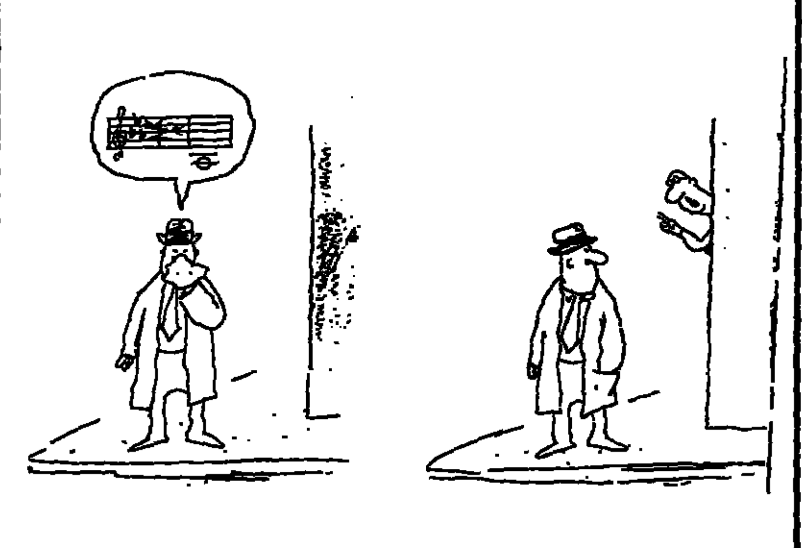
English Idiom:
AT SOMEONE'S BECK AND CALL: ready to obey someone.
The service was A-OK. There was always a host at your beck and call.

Farsi Equivalent:
*BA TAMAAM-E VOJOUD DAR KHEDMAT-E KASY BOUDAN: (word for word meaning: with all the existence at service of someone; to be); ready to offer someone any possible service.
* *Mehrdaad ba tamaam-e vojoud dar khedmat-e pedar-e pirash ast.*
(Mehrdad is at his old father's beck and call.)

●●● ●●● ●●●

English Idiom:
AT SOMETIME SHARP: exactly at a named time.
You must attend the office at eight sharp.

Farsi Equivalent:
* SAR-E SAA'AT-E...: (word for word meaning: head of the hour...)
* *Bayad darou hayat raa sar-e saa'at-e moayyan bekhory.*
(you must take your medication sharp at the prescribed time.)



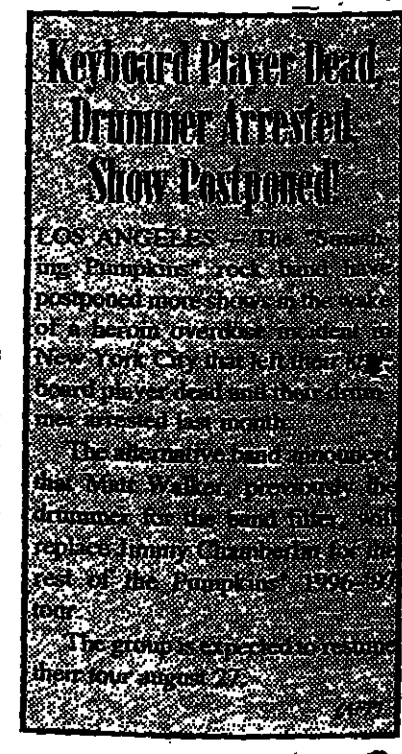


Int'l Confab on Orientalism and Islamic Studies

ATHENS — The Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) has organized an international conference on "Orientalism and Islamic studies" in Tetouan, Morocco, from the 26th to 28th of November, this year.

Methods used by orientalists and their contribution to the revival of Islamic heritage, errors committed by some orientalists, contemporary orientalism and the dialog of civilizations are some of the topics to be discussed by the conference, said an ISESCO newsletter dispatched to IRNA from Rabat.

The conference is expected to gather renowned orientalists and Muslim scholars from all over the world. *(IRNA)*



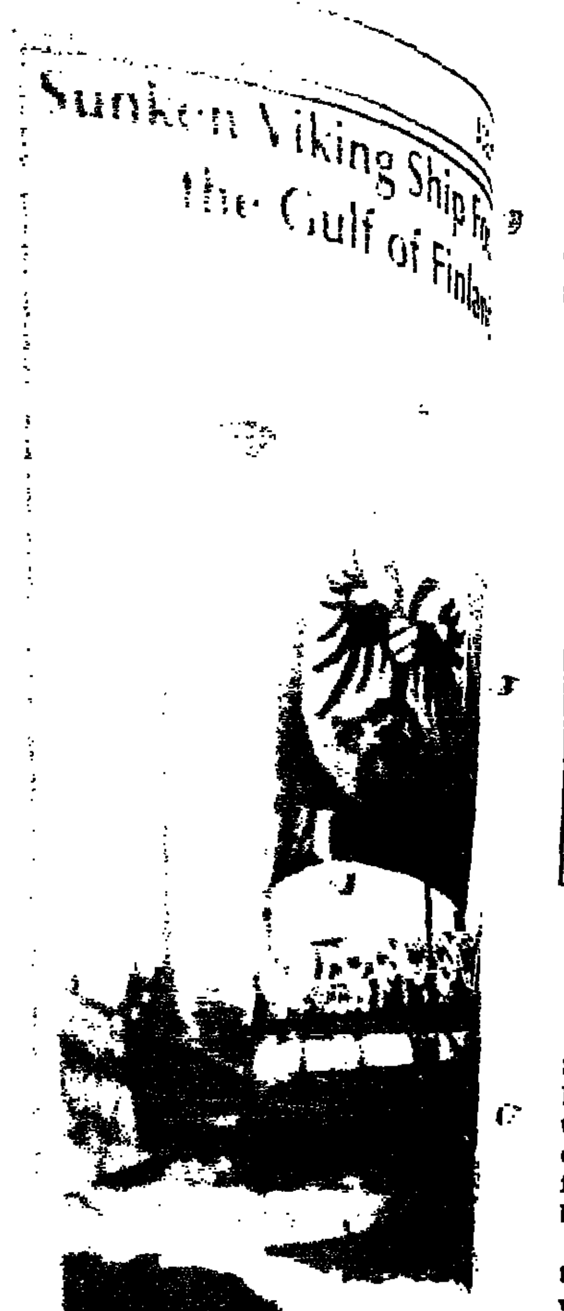
Keyboard Player Dead, Drummer Arrested, Show Postponed!

LOS ANGELES — The "Smashing Pumpkins" rock band have postponed more shows in the wake of a heroin overdose [illegible] in New York City that left their keyboard player dead and their drummer arrested last month.

The alternative band announced that Matt Walker, previously the drummer for the band [illegible], will replace Jimmy Chamberlin for the rest of the Pumpkins' 1996-97 tour.

The group is expected to resume their tour August 27.

(AFP)



Indians Burn Cli

Sympathizing W

Iran to Attend International Fencing Contest

TEHRAN — A team of young and young adult fencers from northwestern province of East Azarbaijan is to be sent to Azerbaijan Republic on Wednesday to attend an international fencing contest.

The Iranian team is to take part in three categories of epee, foil and sabre.

Besides Iran, teams from the host country Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkmenistan and Ukraine will attend the competition, due to start in Baku from Thursday. (IRNA)

Edberg Marches Into Second Round

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana — Swede Stefan Edberg put on a display of serve-and-volley supremacy Monday night to defeat Australian Michael Tebbutt 6-2, 6-2 to reach the second round of the 1.04 million-dollar RCA Championsips.

Edberg, the six-time grand slam champion who will retire in November, needed just 59 minutes to advance, winning 12 of 13 service points during one mid-match hot streak.

The 30-year-old Swede broke tebbutt five times while losing his own serve only once. After that miscue for 1-3 in the second set, Edberg bore down and broke straight back with a well-placed precision volley winner.

"I felt really solid. I missed a few at the end, but I was pleased with my performance," said Edberg, the ninth seed and ranked No. 26 on the ATP Tour.

"I know I can still play good tennis, but it is time to retire. The problem is staying fresh week after week. And by age 31 or 32, I think it is almost impossible to win a grand slam.

Edberg next faces Argentine Gaston Etlis, who gave Andre Agassi a scare in the first round of the Australian Open.

In earlier play, three other seeds advanced.

Australia's Olympic gold medal pair the Woodies proved that they both know how to play the singles game. Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde each won through into the second round.

No. 14 Woodbridge, a first round loser a week ago in Cincinnati, rolled over fellow Australian Scott Draper 6-3, 6-4.

Doubles partner Woodforde needed three sets to put out American qualifier Wade McGuire, 4-6, 6-3, 7-5. (AFP)

Hashemi Outlines Muslim Women's Sports Activities



TEHRAN — Head of Muslim Women Sports Solidarity Council and Majlis representative Fa'ezeh Hashemi said here Monday that the promotion of women sports in Iran, supported by the officials, has made Iran a model country for other Muslim countries.

Hashemi, who was speaking to Irna on the occasion of the Government Week (August 23-29) said that Iranian women who have been active in the scenes of the imposed war (1980-88) and reconstruction, endeavor to establish a healthy society and to confront cultural inroad through their active presence in the sports events.

She added that Muslim women's sports had been founded to honor thoughts of one billion Muslims living throughout the world and to prepare the ground for sports of all Muslim women who adhered to their beliefs.

She reiterated that Muslim women's sports made Muslim women not to eye solely the Western patterns in sports issues.

The Iranian official said that formation of women's sports in the country through new methods had brought about a lot of success for Muslim women, granting them a favourable image in international scenes.

Hashemi said that hosting the First Muslim Women's Games in February 1993 in Tehran, where sportswomen from 11 countries competed in eight sports events, indicated that the council had been successful in its programs.

She continued that the second games would be held in Pakistan in October 1997 in such sports events as badminton, hockey, squash, ping-pong, volleyball, tennis, track and field, handball, markswomanship, swimming, gymnastics, and basketball.

Sportswomen from 20 countries are expected to attend the games, she added.

The Iranian official said that a delegation is soon to visit Pakistan to offer, if need be, financial or manpower assistance for the games.

She noted that Malaysia has announced its willingness to host the third games. (IRNA)

Olympic Cycling Gold Medalist Pulls Out of Aussie Track Team

SYDNEY — Cyclist Kathy Watt has withdrawn from the Australian track team for the World Championships later this month and called for a top-level inquiry into Australian team selection.

Speaking publicly for the first time since returning from Atlanta where she clashed bitterly with national coach Charlie Walsh, Watt described the Australian Cycling Federation (ACF) on Tuesday as a dictatorship.

She also claimed the current structure and attitude of the ACF had been responsible for many cyclists leaving the sport in frustration and said the Australian Sports Commission should conduct an inquiry into team selection.

Watt, who won the road race gold medal at the 1992 Barcelona games but failed in Atlanta, said there was no objective criteria available for Australian team selection.

She failed to win a medal in Atlanta after taking court action to be reinstated in the 3000 metres individual pursuit race after the ACF selected west Australian lucy Tyler-Sharman who had nudged a world time in training.

"The really disappointing aspect is that it was all avoidable if there had been clear objective criteria for selection. In the end everybody lost — me, the other rider involved and the ACF," said Watt.

She said it had been impossible to prepare properly with the distraction of court action and the pressure of her dispute with Walsh whom she accused of running a closed shop for cyclists under his guidance in Adelaide.

Watt said she will now concentrate on preparing for the World Road Championships in Switzerland in October.

ACF spokesman Darren Elder said the federation disputed the opinion of the court of appeal which ruled in favour of Watt, saying it was based on a technicality that training times were not admissible. (AFP)

Graf to Return for Hopman Cup

PERTH, Australia — World number one Steffi Graf will take part in this year's Hopman Cup tennis tournament here, tournament director Paul McNamee said Tuesday.

Graf, who recently won her seventh Wimbledon singles crown, has not played in Australia for three yars because of injury.

In her last appearance in the Hopman Cup mixed teams event in 1993, Graf partnered Michael Stich in a German victory.

Stich is unlikely to join her this year, and countryman Boris Becker also has other commitments.

But McNamee said Graf's acceptance was sure to attract other super-stars to the tournament, starting December 29.

"If the number one in the world is keen to play, especially two weeks before a grand slam event(the Australian Open), that is a big signal for everybody else," he said. (AFP)

New Life for Cantona's International Career

PARIS — Eric Cantona's international career was given new life on Tuesday when French manager Aime Jacquet said the Manchester United star was part of his Wolrd Cup plans.

Cantona was controversially left out of the French squad for Euro 96 and his future chances of ever playing for France looked slight.

But Jacquet, who has never lost an international since he took over in 1993, said in the French sports newspaper L'Equipe that he would be a fool to ignore the talent of Cantona who last season steered Manchester United to the cup and league double.

He also left the door open for Newcastle United's David Ginola, who like Cantona was ignored during Euro 96.

"I am not an idiot or mad. I am there to create the best team possible," said Jacquet, who last week had his contract extended to the 1998 World Cup in France.

"I know them and how to use them," added Jacquet, who said the two players offered him a valuable alternative.

But he warned that he would not make any quick, dramatic changes to the side that reached the semi-finals of the European Championships.

"Obviously there will be changes but nothing too quick," said Jacquet.

France begins its World Cup preparations against Mexico on August 31.

Jacquet came under seveer criticsm earlier this season for ignoring Cantona.

Cantona, who led Manchester United to a crushing 4-0 win over Newcastle in last weekend's Charity Shield match at Wembley, has been cold-shouldered by Jacquet since the player's infamous kungfu attack on a Crystal Palace hooligan 18 months ago. (AFP)

Azharuddin Ends Stormy Marriage

NEW DELHI — Mohammad Azharuddin ended his stormy marriage after he was replaced by young batting genius Sachin Tendulkar as India's cricket captain, the press reported Tuesday.

Azharuddin, 33, who has been under fire since India's defeat in the World Cup semi-finals in March, divorced his wife Naureen and ended speculation over his eight-year-long marriage, which had been on the rocks for the past one year.

The former skipper has been often accused in the media of "not being focussed" after his highly-publicised romance with former Miss India and film star Sangeeta Bijlani.

Naureen's relatives in the city of Hyderabad confirmed the divorce and said Azharuddin left for Bombay, where Bijlani stays, after ending his marriage under Islamic Shariat laws.

The divorce came four days after 23-year-old Tendulkar was named captain for the Four-Nation Singer World Series starting in Colombo on August 24 and a five-match rubber against arch-rivals Pakistan in Canada in September.

The selectors on Friday said the decision to boot out Azharuddin, India's most successful test captain with 11 wins, was taken because his leadership was "not up to the mark." He has, however, been retained in the team.

India also failed to win two limited-overs tournaments in Singapore and Sharjah following the World Cup, and lost both the test and one-day series in England this summer.

Tendulkar, who served as Azharuddin's deputy for the last three years, was tipped to take over for the upcoming season which includes 12 tests against Australia, South Africa and the West Indies.

The first signs of a change came last month when the Indian Cricket Board announced that Azharuddin's term ended with the England tour — even though the selectors had named him captain till September.

Tendulkar, already a veteran of 41 tests since his international debut in 1989, is not India's youngest cricket captain. Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi was 21 when he led the test side in the West Indies in 1962.

Azharuddin had been India's captain for the last 36 tests starting with the 1990 series in New Zealand. His 11 victories surpassed by one the wins notched up by Pataudi and Sunil Gavaskar. (AFP)

Warne Doubtful for Sri Lanka Tour

SYDNEY — Star legspinner Shane Warne will decide at the weekend if an injured spinning finger has healed enough to allow him to join Australia's tour of Sri Lanka if it goes ahead as planned next week.

The Australian Cricket Board (ACB) was meantime expected to decide Friday whether the two-week tour should become another casualty of Sri Lanka's continuing civil war like Australia's World Cup fixtures there last February.

If it goes ahead, it will do so without captain Mark Taylor, who pulled out on Monday because of a back injury which requires early surgery.

Queensland wicketkeeper and current deputy Ian Healy is expected to be named skipper, with veteran batsman Steve Waugh as stand-in vice-captain.

Warne had surgery to the fourth finger on his right hand in late May and said everything was coming along well, but this week-end's training camp in Brisbane would be the ultimate test.

The Victorian captain has just overcome a niggling shoulder and Australia can ill afford to risk its ace legspinner with a five-test series against the West Indies looming in November.

Warne said while he did not want to miss any game for Australia, he also didn't want to risk further injury.

The acb has said its policy for competing in the two-week, Four-Nation Sri Lanka Limited Overs Tournament requires a discernible improvement in the 13-year civil war.

Australia forfeited its World Cup opener in Colombo on February 17 after the January 31 suicide bombing that killed 91 people and injured 1400 in the capital's main financial district.

Sri Lanka later defeated Mark Taylor's men in the cup final in Lahore on March 17.

Only two weeks ago another 70 people died in a commuter train bombing on the outskirts of Colombo, while large scale attacks continue in the north where Tamil Tiger rebels want to establish a separate homeland.

The foreign affairs and trade department has downgraded its warnings on travel to Sri Lanka since the World Cup but said the island remained a high risk destination with hazards on a similar level to Cambodia. (AFP)



BERLIN, Germany (August 12): AC Milan's George Weah (R) duels with Paris St. Germani's Alain Roche during their first match of the "Opel Masters" soccer tournament here. PSG won the match 2-1. (AFP PHOTO)

Ciller Supports Erbakan's Iran Visit, Gas Deal

ANKARA — Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller said Monday that she fully supports Islamist Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan's move to finalize a key natural gas with Iran despite criticism by the U.S.

"I evaluate the prime minister's visit to Iran very positively," Ciller told reporters here.

"The gas deal with Iran is very important for Turkey. Indeed, I initialled this very agreement in May last year when I was prime minister," she said.

Officials from the two countries Monday signed a 20-billion-dollar accord for Iranian natural gas for Turkey on the last day of Erbakan's trip to Tehran, his first official visit abroad since coming to power in late June.

"Recent speculations in the press that I had a dispute with Prime Minister Erbakan on this issue are untrue," Ciller said.

Erbakan's Tehran visit came in the wake of a U.S. move to announce sanctions on foreign companies doing oil and gas business with Iran. U.S. officials have also criticized Erbakan's trip to the Islamic Republic.

But Ciller said: "Turkey will protect its interests. I had expressed this to the United States during my tenure as prime minister as well."

She said the new U.S. sanctions would not apply to Turkey, but did not elaborate.

Recent press allegations suggested that Erbakan had decided to visit Iran without asking Ciller's consent.

Following his Tehran visit, Erbakan flew to the Pakistani capital of Islamabad on Monday. He will also travel to Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia before returning home on August 20.

(AFP)

Habibi Addresses Iranian Diplomats Abroad

TEHRAN — First Vice-President Hassan Habibi here Monday stressed that Iranian diplomats abroad should keep abreast of the existing opportunities in their countries of mission and strive to promote export of Iran's non-oil products.

Addressing the gathering of Iran's diplomatic corps abroad, he touched on the growing competition at international markets as well as problems hindering presence of the developing countries in these markets.

Implementation of numerous industrial and agricultural projects, have paved the way for turning Iran into an industrial country from a consumer country, Habibi further stated.

He noted that channelling the investment to production, correcting pattern of consumption and payment of subsidies, creation of appropriate infrastructural patterns for development, privatization, encouraging public participation in economic activities and promotion of non-oil exports are the main objectives of the Second Five-Year Development Plan.

Referring to ineffectiveness of U.S. economic sanctions on Iran, Habibi said that the fact that Clinton's measure has been badly received by the world countries indicates failure of policies of the U.S. administration.

The Iranian diplomats abroad through their publicity should neutralize U.S. conspiracy aimed at isolating the Islamic Republic, the vice-president concluded.

(IRNA)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

EVEN...

s in fact a support for the Islamic Revolution.

Describing the role of diplomacy in thwarting plots against Iran as crucial, the president said, the U.S. is unable to realize the facts about Iran. The U.S. ballyhoo and its attempt to link any incident to Iran is a dastardly move on the part of the U.S. to tarnish the image of the divine Iranian system. This indicates that the U.S. has not realized that Iran has a special status among nations.

Iran is one of the most powerful countries of the region and one of the most independent countries of the world, he said, adding, the U.S. cannot ignore Iran's role in international equations.

Referring to the efficient leadership of the Leader of Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Kahmenei and the people's support for the Islamic system, the president said, the Islamic Revolution has proven that in the age of technology man can manage the society on the basis of the teachings of Islam.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

VELAYATI...

afraid of the U.S. boycott which will not affect the Iranian economy at all."

The Iranian foreign minister said that his country "wants to establish privileged ties with the Arab world" and "the interests of the Arab countries will be protected in the framework of friendly relations with Iran."

(AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

ARAFAT...

Asked about the announcement late Monday by Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai that some 300 trailers would be set up to expand schools in Jewish settlements, Arafat called the move "a new breach of what has been agreed and what has been signed" between Israel and the Palestinians.

The announcement by Mordechai signalled the first concrete step by the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu toward implementing an August 2 decision to resume settlement expansion after a four-year freeze.

Ahmad Abdelrahman, general secretary of Arafat's autonomy government, said the decision was "damaging the peace process."

"This (Israeli) government is losing its credibility daily," he said.

"The Palestinians will not accept this kind of peace. It's not peace, it's occupation," he said.

Abdelrahman also dismissed as superficial the announcement Monday that Israel would resume some negotiations this week with the PA after a six-month suspension.

The talks will be largely technical and will not touch on key territorial questions, either concerning Israel's delayed withdrawal from the West Bank city of Al-Khalil or the final status of the Palestinian territories.

"This kind of public relations game by Mr. Netanyahu is not an answer," he said. "He should stop building the settlements, all settlements are illegitimate."

Hassan Asfour, head of the PA's negotiating department, also played down the Israeli overture.

"The resumption of talks by itself cannot be considered progress," he told AFP. "We could hold 3,000 meetings without obtaining any results. It is the results which count and not simply the fact that we sit down and talk."

(AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

SYRIA...

resuming the Israeli-Syrian dialogue via a confidence-building "Lebanon-first" option.

Under such a deal, Israel would withdraw from a buffer zone it occupies in South Lebanon in exchange for Syrian guarantees of an end to cross-border attacks by the Hezbollah and other anti-Zionist movements.

(AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

CHINA'S...

PICC property officials as saying.

Economic cooperation between China and Iran took off last year when the Chinese consortium won a 580-million-dollar deal to supply locomotives, carriages and other components for the Tehran metro.

It was favored over Western countries to build the subway because of "high prices quoted by Western suppliers and Iran's relation with the West," the paper said.

This was confirmed by an Iranian diplomat in Beijing, who told AFP it was likely the project would be finished "within the year ... work is going as scheduled."

Separately, he said he had no knowledge of China's plan to build a uranium plant near Esfahan, in central Iran, a plan Washington has asked Beijing to scrap because the milled uranium ore can be converted into gas that could be used for weapons fuel.

"I don't know about this but I know China won't follow any direction from the U.S. This is U.S. business for U.S. problems," said the diplomat, who asked not to be named.

U.S. intelligence reports quoted in the *Washington Times* in April said Chinese nuclear technicians would build the plant under a deal which provides for inspection of the facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

China narrowly avoided U.S. sanctions in May over its sale of 5,000 ring magnets to Pakistan that could be used to enrich uranium for nuclear weapons.

Trade from China to Iran, including cement and steel factories, topped $270 million in 1995, while in the opposite direction, products including crude oil, minerals and seafood soaked up $220 million.

(AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

IRAN...

1981 not topinterfere with Iranian domestic affairs," Labba said. "They have violated these fundamental obligations."

He said that Washington would have to submit its answer to the complaint before the tribunal can hold a closed-door hearing on the matter.

The U.S. representative to the tribunal, Sean Murphy, had no reaction on the complaint Tuesday.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Mohamad Jawad Zarif said that his country reserved the right to ask for compensation from the United States. He was speaking during a brief stopover in Geneva, where he flew after filing the complaint in The Hague.

"This is the beginning of a process. We have reserved rights for compensation," he said.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

SYRIAN...

The summit did not take a firm stand on the issue of the expansion of Jewish settlements backed by Israeli usurpers and has failed to persuade Israelis to withdraw from occupied territories," he said.

He said that notwithstanding U.S. President Bill Clinton's efforts to persuade the world that the Middle East peace negotiations will come to a successful conclusion, the reality is that the negotiations are doomed to fail.

"For Clinton, the peace process is a tool to guarantee his victory in the coming U.S. presidential rece," Akhtari said.

The Iranian ambassador predicts the Middle East peace process will not lead to stable peace in the region because "From the beginning of negotiations in Madrid it was clear that the summit will bring no fruits for the oppressed Palestinians."

As for Netanyahu entry as a player in the peace process, Akhtari said: "There is no difference between Natanyahu's policies and those adopted by his predecessor, assassinated prime minister Yitzhaq Rabin."

"As leaders of the Likud and Labor Parties both Netanyahu and Rabin follow the same anti-Palestine policies. Both of them are aggressors and share the same hostile attitude towards Islamic and Arab countries," he said.

On Syria's stance in the Israel-Syria peace negotiations, Akhtari opined that Syria, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Assad, will never sign the peace agreement without Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

"Syria will never bow down before Israeli pressure," he stressed.

"Israel tries every possible means to spread the seeds of discord among Arab nations," the ambassador said, adding that because of this policy the Zionist regime prefers to negotiate with each Arab country separately.

"It resorted to this policy in negotiations with Egypt and Jordan and now wants to apply it in the negotiations with Lebanon and Syria. Israel spares no effort at preventing Lebanon and Syria from getting united in the negotiations," Akhtari said.

On Irano-Syria relations, he underlined that both Muslim countries have had cordial relations since the victory of the Islamic Revolution and that their governments are keen at pursuing key measures to expand ties at the regional and international levels.

Touching on the fertile grounds for cooperation between the two countries, he pointed out that both countries in recent years have agreed to set up joint commissions to expand ties particularly in the industrial and technical fields.

"It is necessary for Iran and Syria to expand their relations in order to defuse U.S. and Israeli plots in the region and support the oppressed peoples of Palestine and Lebanon," the Iranian ambassador concluded.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

HEKMATYAR...

the new premier, started at 8:00 a.m (0330 GMT) Tuesday and will last until a round of peace talks between the two sides is over, he said in a statement.

"For the time being agreement has been reached for a general cease-fire in the north of the country," Hekmatyar said in the communique issued by his office.

"Under this deal, the cease-fire will be effective from Tuesday morning and will remain in force until the announcement of the results of the talks between our two groups."

A government delegation was at Dostum's base in Mazar-i-Sharif for sensitive negotiations on bringing peace to Afghanistan for the first time in 17 years, he said. However, Kabul still faces opposition from other armed groups elsewhere in the country.

The premier, who took office six weeks ago at the head of an interim coalition administration, said any "provocation or propaganda" against one side by the other would be halted during the term of the cease-fire.

He said Dostum, who has been vehemently opposed to the Kabul government since he launched an abortive coup against it in January, 1994, had pledged to respect the cease-fire and to reopen the key Salang highway.

The move could help avoid the terrible suffering endured by thousands of cold and starving Kabulis during a total blockade of the city last winter, they added.

(AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

ERBAKAN...

which lasted about two hours, Erbakan and Bhutto held a separate session without aides, they said.

Officials said the two leaders discussed ways to increase economic and commercial relations and exchanged views on international issues of mutual interest.

Bhutto explained the situation in Indian-held Kashmir where a six-year movement against Indian rule has claimed more than 12,000 lives.

Reiterating Pakistan's opposition to an Indian plan to organize elections in Kashmir in September, Bhutto called for a UN-supervised plebiscite in the northern Himalayan state to enable its people to decide their future, they said.

Erbakan, who arrived here late Monday, pledged Turkey's support to Pakistan's quest for a peaceful solution of the Kashmir issue.

"We support Pakistan's search for a negotiated settlement of this issue," Erbakan said at a banquet given by Bhutto.

The Kashmir question must be solved on the basis of "international legitimacy and through negotiations," he added.

Turkey has always followed the Kashmir issue with concern, he said.

"Our concern is all the more exacerbated by the human tragedy the world has been witnessing in Jammu and Kashmir," he said, referring to the current insurgency. "We stand in solidarity with our Pakistani brethren."

Erbakan was also due to attend a meeting late Tuesday of a ministerial panel set up by the 51-nation organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) to discuss the situation in Kashmir.

Premier Bhutto would open the session of the OIC Contact Group on Kashmir which includes Guinea, Morocco, Niger, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkey.

(AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 10)

CHINA...

Prospects for major discoveries of minerals in China's center and west "are very attractive" he said, adding that he was "confident China will discover more oil and metal in Xinjiang and more salt and oil in Qinghai."

But until the reserves are found China must recycle more waste minerals, he cautioned, in particular "using mining tailings left over after the exploration of the mining sites to help increase China's mineral resource reserves."

"About 50 to 60 percent of scrap iron, 50 to 70 percent of copper and aluminium are recycled abroad, while China only reuses 30 percent and 10 to 30 percent respectively," he added.

China also needs to increase its exploitation of deposits that contain more than one kind of mineral, to help cut wastage.

"A 10 percent increase in the exploitation efficiency of mineral deposits that contain more than one substance translates in increased metal reserves of at least 20 million tons," he was quoted as saying.

China has the world's third-largest mineral resources, but they still account for only eight percent of the global total, while the country's 1.2 billion people make up some 22 percent of the worldwide population.

China has been encouraging foreign investment in the exploration of oil, gas and gold and Beijing recently set up a market mechanism for the buying and selling of exploration and excavation rights for mineral resources.

The revisions had been planned for several years to boost investment in and promote the development of the cash-strapped sector amid warnings of serious shortages of major minerals next century due to overmining by tens of thousands of poorly supervised small mines.

(AFP)

WEATHER

The I.R. of Iran Meteorological Organization announced today's weather as follows:

Forecast for Tehran: Max. temp. 38°C, Min. temp. 26°C

Clear to partly cloudy with wind

Warmest Point:
Ahwaz 49°C

Coldest Point:
Boroujen 10°C

Some cities of the world

Cities	Max. °C	Cities	Max. °C
Riyadh	43	Vienna	–
Istanbul	27	Moscow	–
Rome	27	Madrid	30
Athens	–	Abu Dhabi	40
London	19	Karachi	29
Paris	18	New Delhi	32
Frankfurt	18	Kuwait	47

Bodies of Iranian, Iraqi Soldiers Exchanged at Border

Tehran Times Service

MANZARIEH, Iraq — Iran and Iraq on Tuesday exchanged the remains of 65 Iranian martyrs and 400 Iraqi soldiers killed during the 1980-1988 Iraqi-imposed war.

The exchange, on the eighth anniversary of the end of the Iran-Iraq war in August 1988, took place at Khosravi, a border city in Western Iran, in the presence of civil officials of the Kermanshah Province and military officials from both sides.

After the exchange of the bodies both sides held a joint session at Manzarieh military base where both sides stressed on the need to continue the exchange of the bodies in the future.

Talking to the *Tehran Times*, the head of Iraqi official delegation in charge of the exchange of the bodies of soldiers, General Abdulwahhab, said, we are pleased over exchange of the bodies. He expressed hope that such exchanges would continue in the future.

Since August 1995 the bodies of Iraqi and Iranian soldiers have been exchanged in three phases. Some 661 bodies of Iraqi soldiers and 224 Iranian soldiers have been exchanged thus far.

The exchange was part of bilateral agreements on returning the troops' bodies to their countries. In June, at the southern Iranian border city of Shalamcheh, Iran and Iraq exchanged the bodies of 144 Iranian martyrs and 200 Iraqi troops.

Iran asked Iraq this year to cooperate with military search teams to find remains of Iranian soldiers martyred during the eight-year imposed war.

The bodies of some 25,000 soldiers have been found since the end of the war.



Russian Commander, Chechen Leader, Meet on Cease-Fire

MOSCOW — As fighting raged in Chechnya, the Chechen chief-of-staff and the commander of Russian forces were to meet Tuesday to discuss conditions for a cease-fire in Chechnya, a spokesman for the separatists told AFP.

The face-to-face meeting — between military commander General Konstantin Pulikovski and Chechen leader Aslan Maskhadov — was expected to take place at around 6:00 p.m. (1400 GMT), according to the Interfax news agency.

Chechen spokesman Movladi Udugov said the meeting was arranged during brief talks at midday Tuesday between the two men's staff, which he claimed the Chechen side instigated.

The Russian command would not confirm the time of the meeting, and would only say it would take place "in the near future," Interfax said.

Neither side would reveal the venue for the proposed meeting.

Fierce fighting raged on in the capital Grozny and other parts of the breakaway republic despite the move, which follows preliminary talks between Russian Security Council chief Alexander Lebed and Maskhadov on a peace plan overnight Sunday.

The shattered center of Grozny still resounded with gunfire as the damaging Chechen offensive bore on into its eighth day, and, in a reversal of a pledge made Monday, the Russians resorted to using helicopter gunships against Chechen positions.

Russian General Anatoly Kvashnin, the commander of the northern Caucasus military region, told Russia's RTR television that the fighting had subsided to "small clashes" with the separatists.

But Udugov disputed that, saying fierce gunbattles still raged around the Russian Security Service (FSB) headquarters in Grozny, and that the Chechens still controlled the center. (AFP)

Leghari, Bhutto, Congratulate Nation on Independence Day

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The President of Pakistan, Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in two separate messages congratulated the nation on the independence of Pakistan.

"Today is the historic occasion for the Pakistani nation to offer gratitude to Almighty Allah as Pakistan is entering the 50th year of its creation. It is a memorable day for every Pakistani," Benazir said in her message.

Throughout this period Pakistan has been facing number of crises but the enlightened masses of this country which came into being as a result of a historic struggle under the leadership of Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah have always proved to be its saviour against all odds, she added.

The Golden Jubilee year is getting off to a start today. Whereas it is the right of the whole Pakistani nation to celebrate the occasion, it is also the duty of the government and all Pakistanis to present themselves for accountability and should review as to what has been gained and lost during the last forty-nine years by pinpointing the faults and learning a lesson from the history of last fifty years, we would resolve that such mistakes will not be repeated, no hurdles will be created in the way of people's rule, there will only be rule of law and justice and instead of individuals, institutions will be strengthened, the message added.

Leghari in his message said, Forty-nine years ago, Pakistan's emergence as a new sovereign state on the map of the world epitomized the successful culmination of a long and arduous struggle against heavy odds by the Muslims of the subcontinent under the inspiring and dynamic leadership of Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah on this day, we should not only pay homage to the great Quaid but also rededicate our energies and resources for the greater glory of our homeland.

Iran Seeks to Amend N-Test Treaty

LONDON — The official five nuclear power states face objections from Iran to the draft text on a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, according to experts from the 61-nation Conference on Disarmament in Geneva.

Iran delegate Hamid Baidi is said to have raised "three concerns" that must be addressed before Iran would accept agreement, which needs to be approved by consensus.

The objections, according to the *Financial Times* Tuesday, are that the treaty does not include a wider commitment to total nuclear disarmament and the so-called "national technical means" for monitoring that could be used as cover for spying.

The third demand is that Israel's membership of the executive council should be as a Western nation and not as part of the Middle East group.

Iran with several other non-aligned countries have been seeking a commitment by the nuclear power states, Britain, France, Russia, China and the U.S., to begin wider disarmament talks within a framework, which Baidi said should be referred to in the treaty.

The 61-nation conference is hoping to endorse the draft text on a comprehensive test ban this week so it can go to the UN General Assembly next month. (IRNA)

Burma's SLORC Wants Freedom to Practice Own Form of Democracy

KUALA LUMPUR — A visiting senior Burmese official Tuesday slammed the West for trying to impose its democracy model on Burma, saying Rangoon should be allowed to practice "its own form of democracy."

The secretary of Burma's State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), Khin Nyunt, said in talks with Malaysia's Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim that Burma could not accept the West "imposing a Western model of democracy."

"The Burmese say democracy is something each country has to practice according to (its) own political situation," Malaysia's Finance Ministry Secretary-General Clifford Herbert said, briefing reporters on the hour-long talks between Anwar and Khin Nyunt. (AFP)

Turkish Ministers Revive Dialogue, Trade With Iraq

BAGHDAD — Two Turkish ministers held talks with Iraqi officials here Tuesday in a bid by Ankara's new Islamist-led government to restore commercial and political links ruptured by the 1991 Persian Gulf war.

Justice Minister Sevket Kazan, a close aide of pro-Islamic Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan, and Education Minister Mehmet Saglam met Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan and Foreign Minister Mohammad Said al-Sahhaf.

"They discussed bilateral ties, concentrating on trade issues," said a member of the Turkish delegation.

The two ministers, leading the first high-ranking Turkish team to visit Iraq since the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, also met Information Minister Abdel Gani Abdel Ghafur.

Saglam said the visit was aimed at "promoting trade relations between Iraq and Turkey, and boosting the volume of trade back up to the level of before the embargo," imposed on Iraq after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

"We came to Iraq to lift the obstacles standing in our way due to the UN embargo," Saglam said.

A Turkish trade delegation, meanwhile, was winding up a visit to explore ways to cash in when Iraq resumes limited oil exports soon under an oil-for-food deal with the United Nations.

Members of the Turkish delegation, quoted by the official Iraqi News Agency INA, said the two countries would aim to boost trade to the level of more than one billion dollars over the next six months.

The delegation head Ahmet Kuscu said Turkey had lost some $30 billion because of the sanctions imposed on Iraq, which before the Persian Gulf war was Turkey's biggest trading partner. (AFP)

Iran Syria Joint Economic Commission Meets

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Iran-Syria Joint Economic Commission met here yesterday to prepare the draft for long-term cooperation between the two countries.

The final document for bilateral cooperation will be signed during the visit of Syrian prime minister to Iran next week.

The draft document provides for the removal of double tax system, establishment of joint ventures, health and treatment cooperation, cultural cooperation as well as cooperation in agricultural fields.

Also construction of roads, cement factories and steel industries in Syria by Iranian experts are among other issues incorporated in the agenda.



Iraq Executes 122 Republican Guard Officers for Coup

DUBAI — Ten Iraqi officers have been executed under the supervision of President Saddam Hussein's eldest son Uday on charges of taking part in a failed coup attempt in July, an opposition group said Tuesday.

The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI) said the execution took place "in the last few days" at a Baghdad compound of the elite Republican Guards unit to which the officers belonged.

Among the officers executed were two generals, two colonels and two commanders, the group said in a statement received here.

Jordan has denied any involvement in the reported coup, which SAIRI has said was backed by Washington and Amman.

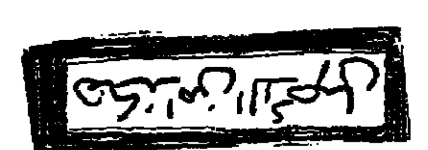
The Iraqi National Congress, an Arab-Kurdish opposition coalition, said on July 11 that at least 122 army officers had been arrested for plotting against the regime. Dozens have since been executed on Saddam's orders, it said. (AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 4)

114 MORE...

15-year sentence for Ma, whose watchdog unit had instead taken in 22.5 million dollars in bribes over five years.

Chou was indicted in late June for running some 30 underground video gambling joints that brought in 100 million dollars each month. He was suspected of doling out tens of millions of dollars in bribes to police officers each month. Gambling of any kind is banned in Taiwan. (AFP)



TEHRAN TIMES
international news
PAGE 16
AUGUST 14, 1996

Over 30 Monkeys Electrocuted in Kathmandu

KATHMANDU — At least 30 monkeys, thought to come from Kathmandu's famous "Monkey Temple", were accidentally electrocuted in the Nepalese capital early Tuesday.

Witnesses said the unfortunate simians were electrocuted when a high voltage electrical cable snapped and came down on a barbed wire fence.

"The unsuspecting monkeys as usual tried to cross over to a nearby jungle by lifting the barbed wire but they got the shock of their lives," a witness said.

The monkeys were thought to come from the nearby temple of lord Pashupati Nath, a tourist haunt also known as the "Monkey Temple". (AFP)

Japanese Wildlife Filmmaker Killed by Bear

LONDON — A Japanese wildlife filmmaker has been killed by a bear while filming on location in the Russian Far East, Interfax news agency said Monday in a report monitored here.

The Japanese director, named as Khosino Mitio, died late on Friday night when the bear attacked the camp where he and his crew were staying, according to the report monitored by the BBC.

Thirty-three-year-old Mitio and his crew were working near Kurilskoye lake in the Kamchatka region. Local hunters found and shot the bear on Saturday, Interfax said. (AFP)

Floods in Northwestern China Kill 59

BEIJING — Devastating flash floods in northwest China's Xinjiang Province have killed 59 people and left another 89 unaccounted for, the Red Cross said Tuesday.

Quoting official figures, Thorir Gudmundsson, a liaison officer from Iceland's Red Cross, said a further 100,000 people had lost their homes after heavy rains hit the isolated region at the end of July.

This latest toll pushes the number of flood-related deaths in China this year towards 2,000.

"The disaster in the affected areas of Xinjiang is worse than I had expected," said Sun Baiqiu, vice president of China's Red Cross, who organized the four-day inspection tour.

In Fukang, near to the provincial capital of Urumqi, 18 people died when water broke through a reservoir dam and swept in a seven-meter (23-foot) through the town.

The village of Oman Karsmahala further to the south was twice hit by flash floods at the end of July, and water waves as high as two meters (6.6 feet) levelled homes and killed sheep and cattle.

China's official media has made no mention of deaths in northwest Xinjiang, although it has said that heavy rains at the end of July swept away the Urumqi-to-Korla railway line.

"The flash floods came by surprise and caused a lot of damage," said Ron Kuban, the second delegate who visited Xinjiang from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Socities. (AFP)

Police Detain Three Ex-Army Officers

DHAKA — In a surprise move, police detained three retired army officers Tuesday for involvement in Bangladesh's 1975 army coup, witnesses and police sources said.

Police squads raided the homes of retired colonels Faruq Rahman, Shahriar and retired Major Khairuzzaman and took them for interrogations, an AFP photographer at the scene reported.

Shahriar has been detained at the downtown Ramna police station and Rahman and Khairuzzaman were taken to a nearby detective office, he said.

The detention came two days before the anniversary of the August 15, 1975 coup in which President Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the nation's founding leader and father of current Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed, was killed along with most of his family. (AFP)

Street Violence in Seoul Flares Anew

SEOUL — Fresh clashes broke out here Tuesday as students tried to march to the truce village of Panmunjom in an attempt to welcome North Korean counterparts for an outlawed pro-unification rally here, witnesses said.

At least seven riot policemen were injured when some 600 radicals battled with police near a subway station on the Unification Road leading to Panmunjom in the Demilitarized Zone dividing the Koreas.

South Korea forbids such contact and roads to Panmunjom were under heavy security Tuesday.

Two South Korean students who defied threats of arrest and flew last week to North Korea were to have returned home via Panmunjom along with North Koreans for the rally.

The marchers, mostly from the southwestern city of Kwangju, wielded metal pipes and hurled rocks and firebombs, shattering the windows of 15 police vehicles. Police fired volleys of teargas and brandished clubs.

Clashes also erupted in at least three places outside Yonsei University in western Seoul and outside Dong-Guk University in central Seoul, causing traffic snarls.

Four other universities, including Seoul National University, reported rallies by students numbering between 500 and 1,000 each, who later converged on the Yonsei University by breaking through police lines. (AFP)



SEOUL, South Korea (August 13): South Korean dissident students fight riot police during an anti-government demonstration inside of Seoul's Yonsei University. Hundreds of South Korean dissident students call other students together to hold an anti-government demonstration on Korea's Independence Day August 18.

(AFP PHOTO)

Upbeat Republicans Wrap Up Convention Opening

SAN DIEGO, California — Republicans demonstrated unexpected unity on the first day of their national convention here Monday, calling for a return to conservative leadership and taking swipes at President Bill Clinton's integrity.

Appearances from both ends of the party's ideological spectrum by renegade rightwinger Pat Buchanan and Black Persian Gulf War hero Colin Powell disappointed Democratic hopes that the divisive debates about abortion, immigration and race would cloud the gala to nominate candidate Bob Dole.

"I want to fill the big tent that our party has raised, to attract all Americans," said Powell, the popular former chairman of the joint chiefs of staff who once flirted with the presidency himself.

The 1,900 delegates gathered here were also buoyed by polls showing Dole narrowing President Bill Clinton's lead 10 weeks ahead of the vote, a rise attributed to his choice of Jack Kemp as his running mate and his newfound tax cutting policies.

But the biggest draw by far was not even on hand at the convention in sunny San Diego, California.

The party's most popular former President Ronald Reagan, was prevented from making a personal appearance because of his alzheimer's disease.

But his wife, Nancy, paid an emotional tribute to his two-term presidency, with which Republican leaders hope to be blessed by association.

Former President Gerald Ford, who chose Dole as his running mate in his failed 1976 reelection bid, urged a return to such beloved leadership in the White House. (AFP)



SAN DEIGO, CA, United States (August 12): Several hundred Mexican immigrants march through down town Sam Deiggo, California to protest immigration policies proposed by the Republican Party at the Republican National Convention. The proposed Republican political platform calls for the limiting of immigrant rights.

(AFP PHOTO)

Germany Lodges Priebke Extradition Request

BONN — Germany has formally requested the extradition from Italy of the ex-SS Captain Erich Priebke for the 1944 Erdeatine Caves massacre, of which he was cleared by an Italian military court on August 1.

A Justice Ministry spokesman said the request was presented to the Italian Foreign Ministry on Monday by the German ambassador in Rome, Dieter Kastrup.

The request for the handover of Priebke, 83, is based on a warrant issued by the Dortmund Prosecutor's Office. (AFP)

Khmer Rouge Defectors Order Arrest of Hardliners

PHNOM PENH — A group of defectors from the Khmer Rouge has ordered the arrest of two hardline members of the central guerrilla leadership and appealed for Thailand's help in doing so.

"The commanders of divisions 450, 415 and 250 appeal to foreign countries and friends who love peace to help close completely the checkpoints behind the backs of the traitors Son Sen and Ta Mok in order to allow (us) to arrest them for their cruel acts," it said in a statement.

"This appeal is made to avoid bloodshed between Khmer and Khmer and an attempt to prevent the killers from having a chance to intimidate the weak people," said the statement, dated Monday, which was faxed to news organizations in Phnom Penh Tuesday.

Son Sen, the Khmer Rouge minister of defense and Ta Mok, the chief of staff of the guerrillas' national army of Democratic Kampuchea, are believed to be in northwest Cambodia near the Thai border.

Khmer Rouge radio, which is still under the control of the hardline central leadership, has called for loyal divisions to attack the defectors at their bases of Phnom Malai and Pailin.

The renegade divisions have sworn allegiance to Ieng Sary, the former Khmer Rouge number two. (AFP)

Sri Lanka Battle Drags, Tigers Deny Bombing Hindu Temple

COLOMBO — Long-range fighting raged in northern Sri Lanka Tuesday between government forces and Tamil Tiger guerrillas as the rebels denied bombing a Hindu temple in the eastern town of Batticaloa, officials said.

Security forces fired mortar bombs and artillery against positions of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) as sporadic fighting killed five people throughout the island's embattled northeast, the military said.

The LTTE offered stiff resistance to the military advance against their political headquarters at the town of Kilinochchi and one soldier died in an overnight Tiger mortar attack, officials said.

Defence sources confirmed that ferocious counter-attacks by the Tigers had bogged down government soldiers despite the use of artillery guns and close air support from helicopter gunships and Kfir supersonic jets. (AFP)



KL Meeting Brings South Together on WTO

A recent conference in Kuala Lumpur for the first time brought developing countries together to work out a strategy for the World Trade Organization's Ministerial meeting in December. It was an important happening because the Northern countries' attempts to introduce more issues in the WTO is a threat to the South's economic future, as the participants agreed.

In December 1996, a crucial international economics meeting will be held in Singapore that will have great implications for the development policies and economic prospects of all countries.

Yet that meeting, the first ministerial conference of the World Trade Organization, is little known to the public. Not yet at least.

This is a pity because the WTO is emerging as the most powerful economic agency in the world. Many areas of policy-making which traditionally have come under the control of national governments are increasingly being transferred to the WTO.

The WTO no longer makes rules only for international trade. More and more, it is also making decisions on issues that affect the domestic policies and laws (economic, development, social and cultural) of each member country.

Member states have to change a wide range of their domestic laws and policies in order to conform to the WTO's agreements.

Because of the power of the WTO as a legally binding trade agreement, the developed countries have chosen it as the major vehicle through which they hope to implement and further their 'governance' of the world economy.

Once an agreement or rule is passed at the WTO, developing countries have to follow it, or face the threat of trade sanctions. Thus, what is agreed to has to be enforced.

In this strong enforcement capability lies the power of the WTO compared to other agencies, and this is why the strong countries would like more and more issues to be placed under its jurisdiction.

It is an effective device not only for further domination of the global trade and economic system but also for dictating the national economic, social and political policies of the developing countries.

This is why the Singapore Conference will be so important. The powerful counties are trying to get the trade ministers to accept new issues (such as investment policies, labor standards, competition policy, even corruption) as coming under the jurisdiction of the WTO.

They intend that eventually there will be negotiations for new WTO agreements on these issues.

Developing countries on the other hand are concerned that introducing these new issues, which have no direct linkage to trade anyway, would further erode their sovereignty and further limit their ability to make national policies and construct development programs of their own choice.

How these conflicting perspectives are going to be sorted out, before and at the Singapore meeting, will have a large bearing on the future of developing countries' economies.

Intense debates and negotiations are now taking place in the preparation of the agenda for the Singapore Conference. Behind the public screen, trade and economic officials of many countries have been engaged in a flurry of activities and discussions in attempts to protect or advance their countries' interests.

Most of these preparatory debates are taking place behind closed doors in Geneva, where the WTO is headquartered. Being a secretive organization, the WTO's deliberations are not open to the public or even the press, so only trickles of official information flow out.

In the capitals of the rich Northern nations, officials are especially busy in preparing the ground for what they hope will be the introduction of yet more 'new issues' to place onto the agenda of the WTO.

In the seven-year Uruguay Round (UR) talks that ended in 1994, they had succeeded in pushing agriculture, services, intellectual property rights and investment measures, as new issues into the GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade), which now has become transformed into the more powerful WTO.

Hardly has the dust settled on that Uruguay Round, and even before developing countries can start dealing seriously with the problems of adapting their domestic economic policies to the new WTO rules, the North is now pushing for more issues to enter the already overcrowded WTO agenda.

As part of their lobbying, several Northern governments have organized meetings to discuss the Singapore Conference agenda. These meetings have taken place in Stockholm, Canada, Australia and Switzerland in recent months.

In the second week of July 1996, in Kuala Lumpur, many developing countries for the first time got together in a Southern country to do their own preparations.

And the result was very encouraging. They made a start in being committed to defending their national and collective interests, and in getting some common (though no unanimous) positions on some important issues.

Organized by the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS), the conference on 'the WTO: Perspectives from the South' was attended by about 70 trade policy-makers, WTO diplomats, academics and businessmen from several developing countries, including Malaysia, Brazil, Bangladesh, India, Singapore, Thailand, China, Korea, Egypt, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Ghana.

The main conclusion of the meeting was that the attempt by some Northern countries to put new issues into the WTO poses a danger to the sovereignty and economic interests of the South, and this should be resisted in a united way in the preparations for the Singapore Ministerial Conference.

(Third World Network Features)

Economists Say Deficit Obsession Will Not Prevent Severe Recession

CANBERRA — The new government's obsession with a balanced budget will not avoid what could be the most severe recession since World War II, an economic forecaster said in a report released Tuesday, one week ahead of the 1996-97 budget.

Bis Shrapnel said swinging cuts to government spending will do nothing to avoid a current account crisis in the next five to six years, as businesses fail to invest and imports swamp exports.

"In these circumstances, the authorities will be forced to raise interest rates sharply to curb a build-up in inflationary pressures, leading inevitably to a recession early next decade," the report said.

"This recession will be a very severe one and possibly our most severe post-war recession."

The Conservative Coalition government, which won power from the Labor Party in March after 13 years in opposition, has pledged to bring the budget into balance over the next two years.

The government has said it will achieve this by cutting 8 billion Australian dollars (U.S.$6.2 million) from government spending, rather than raising taxes.

It has already cut thousands of public service jobs and shut down some business programs, including a soft loan scheme which had been used to support contract tenders.

But Bis Shrapnel said spending cuts were not the answer to Australia's endemic current account problems.

Australia is running a current account deficit of about three percent of gross domestic product, and suffered a credit rating downgrade in the 1980s when the deficit reached six percent of GDP.

Bis Shrapnel said in its report that the current account deficit will deteriorate regardless of the government's budget strategy, as local businesses fail to keep up with consumer demand and imports surge.

The solution is for the government to revitalize industry policy, it says.

"We need to specifically target the manufacturing sector with a range of policies and initiatives which will rapidly stimulate its growth and foster its development," the report said.

The forecaster also called for the introduction of a broadly-based consumption tax, a policy which the coalition dropped after it was rejected by voters in the 1993 election.

Prime Minister John Howard has repeatedly said that a goods and services tax will not be considered in the coalition's first three-year term of government.

By focusing on the expenditure side of the budget only, the government is ignoring the "inescapable case" for tax reform, Bis Shrapnel said. (AFP)

Japan Says U.S. Request for WTO Panels 'Unfortunate'

TOKYO — Japan said Tuesday it was "unfortunate" that the United States had asked the World Trade Organization (WTO) for dispute settlement panels to review complaints over barriers in the Japanese market.

The International Trade and Industry Ministry (MITI) said in a statement the Japanese government "will take appropriate steps in accordance with WTO rules."

Acting U.S. trade representative Charlene Barshefsky said in Washington the Japanese government was notified Monday of the request for the WTO panels after bilateral negotiations on Japan's photo film and large retail stores markets failed to resolve the disputes.

The United States, she said, has "very strong cases" on Japanese government barriers to market access in Japan. Washington is requesting a review of its film market complaint under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), and on barriers to foreign service suppliers under the General Agreement on Trade in services regarding Japan's large scale retail store law.

Barshefsky also announced that the United States intends to accept the European Union's July 5 proposal that the EU join in Washington-requested consultations concerning Japanese restrictive practices in the Japanese photographic film and paper markets.

Under WTO dispute settlement procedures, the United States became eligible Monday — 60 days after Washington requested consultations — to seek the establishment of the panels.

MITI said that despite attempts to explain the Japanese position during consultations, the U.S. side had "failed to present a clear explanation" of what if found inconsistent with WTO rules.

"Under such circumstances, it is unfortunate that the U.S. government has announced its intention to request WTO panels," it said. (AFP)

62 Percent of Shanghai Enterprises Optimistic in Third Quarter

SHANGHAI — A Chinese Central Bank survey of 5,000 state-owned industrial enterprises has shown 62 percent are optimistic of better economic performance in the third quarter, a newspaper reported Tuesday.

The *Shanghai Securities News* reported that 62 percent of the respondents showed a three percentage point increase in their expectation of improved performances in the third quarter.

According to the survey, financial institutions had offered 88.1 billion yuan ($10.6 million) more in loans to big and medium-scale enterprises in the first half of the year.

Of the total loans, 40 percent went to the industrial sector, an increase of 10 percentage points from the same period of last year.

Short-term loans to the 5,000 enterprises amounted to 40.39 billion yuan in the first six months.

The reduction in lending rates on May 1, played an important role in softening enterprises' interest payment burden and the effect showed in the second quarter.

The survey found the profitability of the 5,000 companies declined in the first quarter and started to rise in the second quarter because a better external environment had been created for enterprise management.

The survey also showed that raw materials and energy supply improved in the second quarter with 80 percent of enterprises surveyed saying that supply improved as controls were relaxed.

With inflation under control, diffusion indices of the purchasing prices of raw materials fell from 73.41 percent in the first quarter to 37.29 percent in the second quarter and that of production machinery fell from 73.54 percent to 35.69 percent.



The diffusion index measures the optimism level of respondents and is calculated by taking the difference between the most optimist respondents and the least optimistic respondents.

The diffusion index of the macro economic trend was expected to be 4.24 percent in the third quarter, that of industrial growth by 7.37 percentage points and enterprise management, by 5.06 percentage points.

The diffusion index of bank credit rose by 3.41 percentage points and the index of enterprises' ability to service their loans rose by 1.71 percentage points in the second quarter, according to the survey. (AFP)

Switzerland Grants Mozambique Nine Million Dollars

MAPUTO — Switzerland will donate nine million dollars to Mozambique for balance of payments support over the next two years, visiting Swiss Secretary of State for Foreign Economic Affairs Franz Blankart said here Monday.

Switzerland will also contribute technical assistance worth a million dollars to the strengthening of tax and customs administration.

The reforms are considered essential for Mozambique to decrease aid dependency and to increase its capacity to finance key investments for growth.

Blankart said Switzerland was impressed by the changes that Mozambique had undergone since the end of its 16-year civil war.

"The Mozambican people, together with a committed government, have made a strong effort toward national reconciliation and countrywide reconstruction, refugees have returned and multiparty elections were held peacefully," he said. (AFP)

Malawi Reports Major Economic Gains

BLANTYRE — Despite drought and recession, Malawi's agriculture-powered economy has achieved major economic gains this year with falling inflation and a massive 50 percent boost in exports.

Inflation fell to 51.1 percent in June from 71.4 percent in January, economists said.

But donors and some independent economists say the real verdict will come in the next six months, depending on the availability of the country's staple, maize, which holds the key to inflation levels.

"Under the present prospects, this downward trend should continue and our target of reaching 20 percent by December 1996 looks achievable," said Central Bank governor, Matthews Chikaonda.

Inflation traditionally declines and remains down for seven months after the maize harvest but peaks up again during the annual planting and growing season.

"Maize has a large impact on the economy," said John Smith deputy resident representative of the World Bank in Malawi.

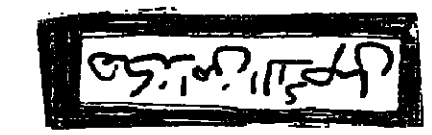
This year's good rains which followed years of drought, guaranteed Malawi's food security with maize production expected to reach 1,9 million metric tons up from 1,3 million tons last year.

Smith said the government of Bakili Muluzi deserved credit for having controlled inflation through spending cuts and a stop in printing more new notes of the kwacha currency to cover up budget deficit, which was 15 percent of the GDP in the 1994/95 fiscal year.

The budget deficit in this tiny and impoverished Southern African state has now been reduced to six percent of the GDP, according to Smith.

Malawi is currently implementing Western-backed tough economic reforms, which have led to the scrapping of subsidies and involved mass dismissals in the civil service as well as industrial redundancies.

The World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and several other donors have put pressure on the Lilongwe government to tighten fiscal and monetary policies, mainly through public expenditure cuts and enhancing its revenue base. (AFP)



Swiss Farmers Down Under

A dozen years ago, New Zealand's farmers suddenly faced the abyss as government subsidies were pulled out from under them. So one wonders: What is it that draws some Swiss farmers nowadays to leave their native, government-coddled agricultural system and emigrate to the other end of the world, where farming now must get along without state supports?

"With 142 cows, I produce 600,000 liters of milk a year here," says Peter Gretener, proud owner of a 62-hectare (153-acre) farm south of Rotorua which he purchased just two years ago. "Back in Switzerland I'd probably be one of the biggest dairy farmers; there may not even be anyone with that large a milk quota there. But in New Zealand I'm just below average."

Peter Gretener describes himself as a "farmer through and through," and here in New Zealand he can realize his dream. That is why, he says, he and his wife plunged into the adventure of leaving one of the world's most protected farm systems and trying their fortune in the unshielded agriculture of the Antipodes. In Switzerland, he had worked under barely average conditions after taking over his parents' farm in Niederwil near Cham. With six and a half hectares of his own land and four and a half hectares of leased land, he initially had a herd of 15 cows from which he drew his annual milk quota of 57,000 liters. Then he abandoned dairy farming, switched to raising brood cows, and made his living selling veal and collecting government subsidies.

At the same time, Gretener helped establish a farm equipment cooperative in the Zug region, which enabled him to make better use of his own expensive equipment. Gradually he became aware that the other farmers in his village considered him lazy, a "pseudo-farmer", because he no longer did things exactly the way his grandfather had. And he felt that there would be no future for him there unless he and his wife found additional employment to supplement their beloved farming.



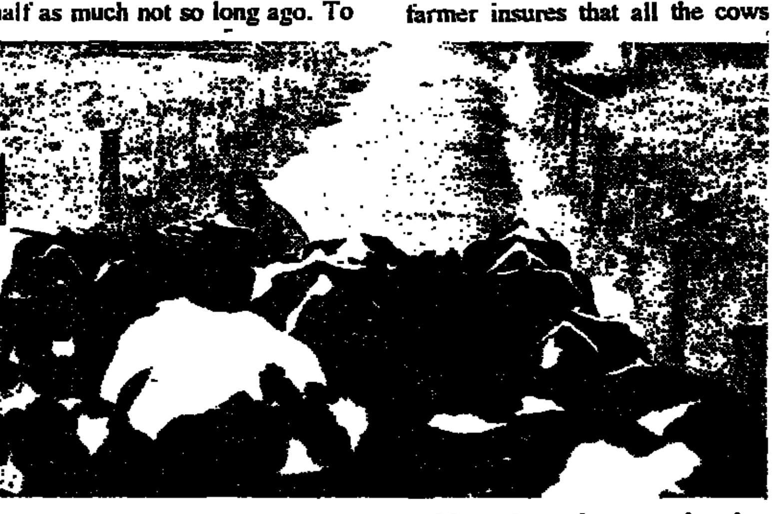
Susan and Peter Gretener: They sold the family farm in Niederwill (shown in the picture they hold), and bought farmland in New Zealand at just 10% of the acre price.

The Greteners had owned their little farm for only two years, and the very restrictive farm inheritance and ownership laws would have prevented their selling off any of it if their parents and siblings had not agreed. As it was, Peter Gretener gave them the farmhouse, barn and immediately surrounding land, and sold off five and a half hectares. He calculated that farmland in Switzerland goes for about 200,000 francs per hectare on the open market, from which one can squeeze a profit of about 5,000 francs a year, while in New Zealand farmland costs only a tenth as much.

Thanks to his certification as a Master Farmer, Peter Gretener qualified for a New Zealand immigration visa. He looked at about 30 farms here before settling on the one at Rerewhakaitu. In New Zealand there are always plenty of farms on the market. Farming here is a business like any other; sheep stations are converted to dairy farms or deer-breeding ranches; successful farmers buy larger farms, or retire at 55 and convert their holdings into liquid assets.

Peter Gretener considers his profession a much greater challenge in New Zealand than in Switzerland. There are neither sales guarantees nor fixed prices; everything is in flux. So he thinks very carefully before spending any capital. For example, instead of buying a tractor he gets along with a kind of four-wheel motorcycle; and he handles most of his cows' medical problems himself instead of calling in a veterinarian. This year he can count on receiving a milk price equivalent to about 30 Swiss centimes per liter from the milk company of which he is a shareholder (there are about 10 such private organized milk companies operating here) – that is roughly 20% more than last year's price, and his herd has produced a record amount. Gretener is delighted; the milk price was only half as much not so long ago. To be precise, though, his milk output is calculated not in liters but rather in kilograms of dry milk solids. At the end of June, the end of the farmer's bookkeeping period here, his books showed not 600,000 liters but 50,000 kilograms of milk solids.

In New Zealand, cows are out at pasture day and night, all year long – a climatically determined difference from a Swiss dairy farm. Each morning and evening, using his four-wheel cycle and a herd dog, Gretener rounds up his animals from one of the 32 sections of pasture that are neatly grouped around his milking shed. The shed consists simply of the milking stall, covered by a corrugated tin roof, and the milking machines. He milks all his 145 cows in just two hours, and each night a 40-ton tank truck draws the milk from Gretener's refrigerated farm tank and delivers it to a huge factory. By carefully timing the insemination of the herd, the farmer insures that all the cows bear their calves within a period of about two months, in the season of best grass growth. This provides the maximum milk output without supplementary feeding.



Hanna and Robert Frischknecht's children drive their 100-head herd of cattle from the pastures in Te Aroha.

"Altogether, I have to milk my cows only 270 days a year, instead of 320 days as in Switzerland," explains Gretener. For the fallow period, he drives his herd to a neighboring farmer, who specializes in wintering the dairy herds of others. That leaves Gretener time for maintenance work around the farm, especially repairing fences – and for vacation. "Here in New Zealand, farming is a life-style, not slavery, and not simply continuing in old, traditional ways. Now I can't imagine doing things the hectic, old Swiss way," smiles the Swiss-born dairyman.

New Zealand's farmers are encouraged always to be sensitive to world markets. Eighty-five percent of production are exported. Each month the private-sector Dairy Board, a successful umbrella export organization, provides information on world market developments, such as new regulations issued by the European Union. "To our ears, the word GATT has a sweet sound," says emigre Peter Gretener. Four times a year the Dairy Board also sends out a video tape which shows the last trends in dairying. "We could easily export 30% more milk," says Gretener, referring to information from the Dairy Board, which does not consider it beneath New Zealand farmers' dignity even to service such ostensibly unlucrative markets as Bangladesh. The board's head, Sir Dreyden Spring, maintains: "We have the vision to become the world's most profitable, unsubsidized dairy-producing economy." New Zealand milk products are sold under the export brand name "Anchor", which reacts quickly and flexibly to such changing market conditions as the growing markets of Asia, shifts in eating habits which might allow sales of pizza cheese to zoom, or crumbling protectionist barriers which may open gaps for deliveries of high-grade products to the USA and Europe.



Bill Schuler, the Greteners' neighbor, is another immigrant Swiss farmer. He switched early on the breeding red deer.

New Zealand's agricultural strategists reckon that, in the long term, world grain supplies are going to become tight, which will increase production costs of those dairy producers, like the Americans, who work primarily with manufactured cattle fodder. Gretener has calculated that, on his farm, it would not pay to go all-out, to use man-made fodder or to employ fertilizers anywhere but on those sections of pasture where soil tests show that there is still room for improvement. The fact that New Zealand farmers in general have shifted to natural livestock feeding has specifically paid off by keeping the country free of mad cow disease.

Sheep raising, once the pride of New Zealand's agricultural sector, remains mired in a deep crisis.

"New Zealand agriculture is incredibly flexible, and its farmers have already withstood a number of crises," says Gretener. "We work under the same conditions as the rest of the economy. Like all others, we pay the 12.5% value-added tax. And if I make a bad decision, there's no one to help me climb out of the hole afterward."

So far, Gretener has obviously not made many bad calls. According to his neighbor Bill Schuler, Gretener is already among the top ten farmers of their district. Schuler himself is the son of an emigrant from Schwyz. He was one of the early ones to convert his farm to the breeding of red deer, before a big boom put pressure on the profitability of this new branch of New Zealand agriculture. An important part of deer breeders' income is derived from the sale of the animals' velvety antlers, which are sawed off when the deer are narcotized and are in great demand in Asia as a medication for increasing male potency.

As the son of a farmer of a tenant farmer in Canton Thurgau, Robert Frischknecht knew that he would never be able to acquire a farm of his own. He had a small piece of land in Canton Appenzell, on which he bred Angus cattle as a hobby. "Swiss farmers can get their land even cheaper than the New Zealanders," notes Frischknecht, explaining that Swiss inheritance law enables a fortunate few to assume ownership of farmland virtually as a gift, at a takeover price equivalent to a farm's annual profits. But aside from that, he says, the price of farms is prohibitive.

So Frischknecht saw himself faced with the choice of either purchasing a one-family house in Switzerland or investing in a new life in New Zealand. Just about two years ago he bought 45 hectares (something over 110 acres) near Te Aroha on North Island, where he keeps about 100 head of dairy cows. He has very clear ideas about the differences between a farmer's life in New Zealand and in Switzerland: "In Switzerland, farmers live off the workers. Here it's the other way around: The workers live off the nine percent of us who are farmers – we're the good taxpayers, the backbone of the export economy. A farmer here is not seen as a subsidy-sucking leech."

A Swiss-born neighbor, who has dropped over to visit Hanna and Robert Frischknecht in order to taste the cervelat sausages just delivered to the Frischknecht by a Swiss butcher, has been here long enough to personally experience the radical changes that New Zealand agriculture has undergone. His advice to his fellow farmers back in the Old Country: Don't fight against reductions in farm subsidies. To him, the word "subsidy" sounds almost like a curse.

(To be Continued)



HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam (August 9): A bridegroom poses beside a colorfully decorated Cadillac which he is using to pick up his bride from the home of her family to take her to the wedding ceremony in Ho Chi Minh City. The city's young couples to be, while dressed in traditional attire, prefer renting luxurious limousines for their wedding day. Some do not hesitate to pay U.S.$120 a day to rent a Cadillac like this one.

(AFP PHOTO)

Exercise Reduces Breast Cancer Risk in Young Women

LOS ANGELES - Women who exercise an average of four hours a week over the course of their childbearing years run almost a 60 percent lower risk of breast cancer, according to a study.

"Four hours of exercise per week is not difficult," said Leslie Bernstein, a professor of preventive medicine at the University of Southern California School of Medicine and the study's chief author. "Even one to three hours of physical exercise per week reduces a woman's risk of breast cancer by about 30 percent."

The findings appear in the latest's issue of the journal of the National Cancer Institute.

They were drawn from surveys of 1,090 Los Angeles county women 40 and younger - 545 with newly diagnosed breast cancer and 545 without the disease. The study analyzed the women's exercise habits since they began menstruating.

The risk of breast cancer among those who averaged four hours of exercise a week since menstruation was 58 percent lower than that of women who did no exercise at all.

For younger women, Bernstein said, it's not too late to start exercising. She said the determining factor for women in the study was how much exercise they did when it was averaged out over their child bearing years.

The study did not prescribe any particular sport or type of exercise.

"I think this is an extremely exciting study," said Dr. Susan M. Love, director of the University of California at Los Angeles Breast Center. "This is the kind of prevention we need. This is lifestyle changes instead of drugs."

Promoting exercise in young women "will not only prevent breast cancer, but osteoporosis and heart disease," said Love, author of "Dr. Susan Love's Breast Book."

The researchers speculated that exercise may protect by altering the production of the ovarian hormones estrogen and progesterone during menstrual cycles. Other research has shown that vigorous athletics can delay the onset of menstruation and halt ovulation in some women. A woman's cumulative exposure to the sex hormones is believed to be associated with breast cancer risk.

Bernstein, a researcher at the USC-Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center, said the results intensified her concerns about how sedentary American girls have become. A 1990 study showed fewer than 40 percent of high school junior and senior girls were enrolled in physical education classes;- only 20 percent of that group participated in vigorous activity three or more times weekly.

"Our results strongly support the need for educational school policies that require participation in physical education classes that encourage lifelong participation in exercise programs," Bernstein said.

The study, supported by the National Cancer Institute and California Department of Health Services, comes a week after researchers reported isolating a gene that causes an inherited form of breast cancer. Inherited forms account for only 5 percent of all breast cancer cases.

Each year, 180,000 American women develop breast cancer= 46,000 die.

WHO Hails Breast Milk as Universal Food for Human Species

TEHRAN – Breast milk is the sole truly universal food for the entire human species, the director general of the World Health Organization (WHO), Hiroshi Nakajima said.

A press release issued by the UN. Information Center here quoted him as adding that until recently breast milk served as vital link for nutrition and survival across the entire span of human existence.

"Thus from both an evolutionary and a developmental perspective, preserving breast-feeding where it is the practice, restoring it where it is not, and creating an environment that enables others and babies to breast-feed merit the unreserved support of every community and all its members," he stated.

Nakajima added that all mothers should be enabled to practice exclusive breast-feeding and all babies should be fed exclusively on breast milk from birth to four to six months of age. (IRNA)

Woman Pregnant With Eight Wants to Keep Them All

LONDON — A British woman pregnant with eight babies after undergoing fertility treatment, said Saturday she wanted to keep them all despite advice from doctors to abort some of the foetuses.

"I'm deliriously happy. I want nature to take its course," said Mandy Allwood in an interview with the *News of the World Weekly* on Sunday.

Paul Hudson, 37, the father of the babies agreed. "We're going to be one very big family. Mandy and I are so much in love," he said.

Allwood from Solihull near Birmingham in central England, already has a son aged five from a previous relationship.

Allwood who is three to four months pregnant, has refused to follow the advice of specialists who recommend aborting some of the foetuses to enhance the chances of survival of the others.

Anti-abortion groups praised Allwood for her stand. Professor Jack Scarisbrick of Life Movement, said he was delighted with her decision to let nature decide.

Gynaecologists however doubt whether Allwood will be able to carry her babies to term. Dr. Robert Sawers said his only advice would be to reduce the number of foetuses. Otherwise, he said it was probable that none of the babies would survive.

"I'm not aware of a single case in the history of the human race where somebody successfully delivered eight babies," said professor Kypros Nikolaides of Kings College hospital in London.

Allwood's story made the front pages of most British papers on Sunday. She has already secured the assistance of a prominent public relations adviser, Max Clifford.

"The perfect scenario for her would be have all eight healthy babies. She is realistic. She understands the problems and is not taking anything for granted," Clifford said. (AFP)

Some Whites Genetically Protected from AIDS Virus

WASHINGTON — About one percent of white people are genetically protected from the virus that causes AIDS, according to a study published by Cell magazine by a team with New York's Aaron Diamonds AIDS Research Center.

In tests on the cells of two people who had been exposed to the virus often but had not been infected, researchers concluded a genetic mutation in which a small part of a gene is missing prevented production of a protein to which most sexually transmitted strains of the disease attach when invading a cell.

Researchers cautioned that even people known to have the mutant gene should continue to guard against HIV, but they said the discovery may help find a way to stop infection or slow the spread of the virus.

Though the two men tested lacked the gene, called CKR-5, they remained healthy, leading researchers to conclude that a treatment based on the gene holds promise.

"This data ... tells us that if drugs are developed to block the activity of the CKR-5 gene, they are likely to prevent AIDS and my not have adverse side-effects," the researchers said.

The two men who were CKR-5 deficient were not related. Researchers said they showed up at their doctors' office for tests because they knew they had had numerous, unprotected sexual encounters with people known to have AIDS.

After conducting test-tube experiments on the men's cells, researchers concluded they could resist infection even after being exposed to HIV doses 1,000 times greater than the amount usually needed to cause infection. (AFP)

THOUGHT

TO the blind man, all colors are black.

Anonymous

PRAYER

Noon.......................... 13:09
Evening....................... 20:14
Dawn (tomorrow)............ 4:43
Sunrise (tomorrow).......... 6:24

TODAY IN HISTORY

1958 - NATO countries announce relaxation of trade restrictions with Soviet bloc and China, but United States maintains embargo on U.S. trade with China, North Korea and North Vietnam.

1962 - Two Soviet spacecraft circle Earth in adjacent orbits and are in visual and radio contact.

1968 - Reports from Bombay say floods in India have claimed more than 1,000 lives in seven days.

1973 - U.S. bombing in Cambodia ends, marking official halt to 12 years of combat activity in Indochina.

1974 - Greece withdraws troops from North Atlantic Treaty Organization after breakdown of Geneva peace talks and new fighting on Cyprus.

1975 - Bangladesh President Mujibur Rahman is killed in military coup which overthrows country's three-year-old government.

1990 - King Hussein of Jordan flies to Washington in attempt to mediate U.S.-Iraq confrontation. Syrian troops begin arriving in Saudi Arabia.

1991 - Scientists report that worldwide band of volcanic dust from eruption of Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines could be cooling world climate.

1992 - Spain, France and Turkey offer to send troops to Bosnia under a U.N. resolution authorizing military force.

1993 - A jury acquits Washington lawyer Robert Altman of all charges in the BCCI-Bank fraud trial, capping a highly publicized, marathon case.

1994 - Several thousand IRA supporters rallied outside Belfast's city hall, 25 years after Britain deployed troops in Northern Ireland as would-be peacekeepers.

SCRABBLE® BRAND GRAMS

G2 R1 A1 M3 S1

RACK 1: R1 R1 A1 E1 P3 S1 S1

RACK 2: R1 I1 I1 Y4 L1 G2 S1 — Triple Word Score

RACK 3: W4 D2 V4 E1 I1 E1 I1 — 4th Letter Double

RACK 4: N1 N1 E1 C3 A1 E1 P3

PAR SCORE 105-115

by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL ___
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7- letter word from the letters in each row. To total points of your words, use scoring directions to right of each row. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words can be found in OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers). **JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW**

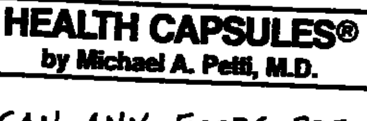
12-15-94

Here is the solution to yesterday's Scrabble

SCRABBLE BRAND GRAMS SOLUTION BY JUDD

H4 O1 R1 R1 I1 F4 Y4	RACK 1 = 98
O1 V4 E1 R1 D2 O1	RACK 2 = 20
P3 O1 P3 L1 A1 R1	RACK 3 = 10
C3 A1 R1 T1 O1 N1	RACK 4 = 8
PAR SCORE 85-95	JUDD'S TOTAL 136

12-14-94



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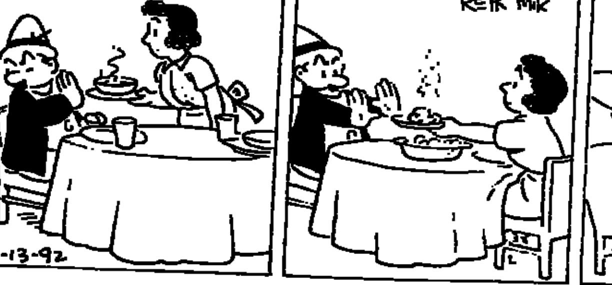
IN ANCIENT China, PEOPLE SLEPT WITH A LIT CORD BETWEEN THEIR TOES— WHEN THE CORD BURNED DOWN TO THEIR FEET IT WAS TIME TO GET UP!

THE OGRE-FACED SPIDER CATCHES INSECTS BY DROPPING A SILKEN NET OVER ITS PREY!

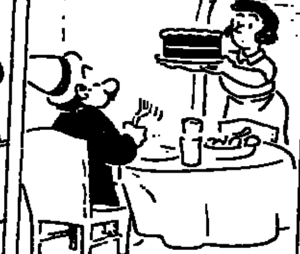
IN 16TH CENTURY EUROPE, A CURE for FAINTING SPELLS WAS TO TAKE FUR from THE BELLY of a LIVE BEAR, BOIL IT IN ALCOHOL AND PLACE IT ON THE SOLES of THE AILING PERSON'S FEET!

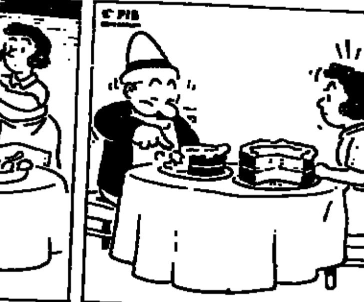
5-5

FERD'NAND ® by Henrik Rehr



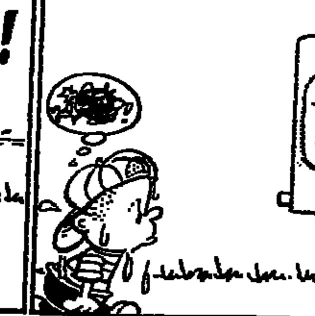


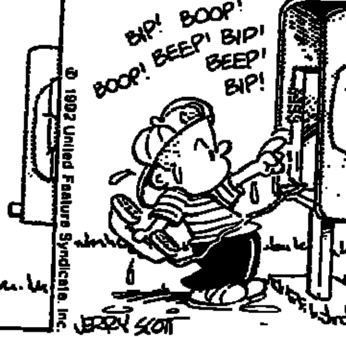






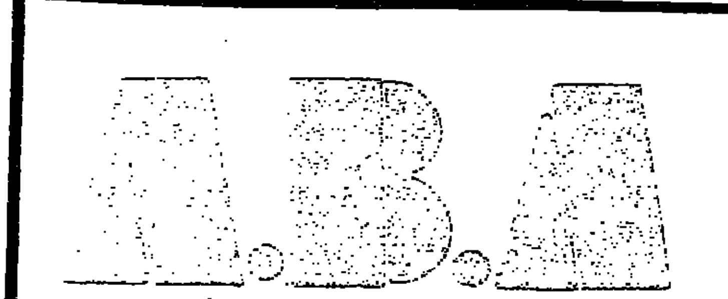






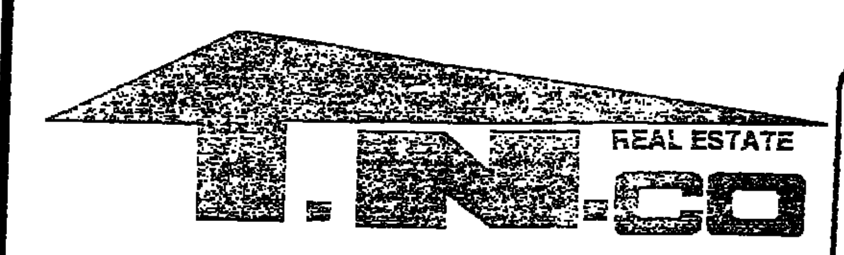






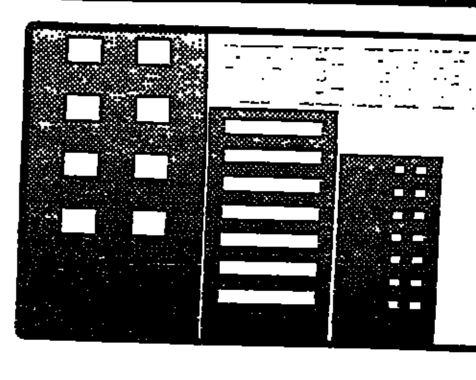
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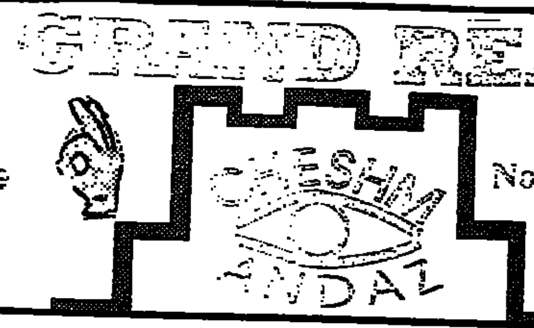
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Moi Urges Clergy to Temper Calls For Political Change

NAIROBI — Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi on Monday urged the clergy to be more "realistic" in their calls for constitutional reform, saying the constitution was too important a document to be changed in a hurry.

Roman Catholic bishop's and an organization grouping Protestant churches last week called for a national conference to discuss constitutional reform before general elections, due before the end of next year.

Moi told a group of clergymen who paid a courtesy call on him that ordinary citizens who did not read newspapers did not understand what constitutional reform meant, hence the need for a more systematic approach to constitutional review.

The Vatican's apostolic nuncio to Kenya, Archbishop Giovanni Tonucci, said Sunday that Pope John Paul II fully backed the bishops' call.

The church and opposition parties have criticized Kenya's current constitution, saying it gave too many powers to the office of the president, making the head of state a virtual dictator.

The document makes it impossible for free and fair multiparty elections to be held in Kenya because major electoral decisions are made by the president, who is also the head of the ruling party, they added.

(AFP)

Jordan Hikes Bread Prices by 250 Percent

AMMAN — The Jordanian government decided late Monday to hike bread prices by 250 percent starting from Tuesday despite fears that it could provoke unrest.

"The price of high quality bread will rise from 0.085 dinars (0.13 dollars) to 0.220 dinars (0.30 dollars)," Information Minister Marwan Muasher told AFP.

Lower quality bread would be available at 0.18 dinars (0.25 dollars), Muasher said.

The minister said the government had decided to cushion the blow for Jordanians by ordering monthly pay-outs in compensation.

Those on the government payroll are to get a monthly wage rise of 1.28 dinars (1.9 dollars) in direct compensation, he said. Other nationals may receive the same amount through banks and post offices.

The government provoked uproar when it first floated plans to triple bread prices — static for more than a decade — in a last-ditch attempt to offset an estimated 154 million dinar (210 million dollar) budget deficit.

Jordan, whose foreign debt is estimated at six billion dollars, is trying to follow an economic reform program brokered by the International Monetary Fund.

But its plans were strongly condemned by trade unions, and triggered several weeks of heated debate in Parliament led by the powerful Islamic opposition.

Deputies warned that the planned price rise could spark unrest and vowed to oppose the decision with all "constitutional means."

In 1989, a rise in petrol prices sparked bloody confrontations in southern Jordan in which 12 people were killed.

Until now bread has been subsidized by the Jordanian government.

Arguing that price rises were inevitable anyway because of higher wheat prices, the government has done away with the indirect bread subsidy and replaced it with the direct cash payouts.

In so doing it hopes to cut by 40 percent the cost of subsidizing bread which it estimated would cost 150 million dollars this year.

The cash compensation will be given only to Jordanian nationals. As a result, the government argues, the price hike will only affect the 1.2 million tourists to the kingdom each year and the 400,000 foreign laborers working here.

(AFP)

Suharto's Son-in-Law Gets Second Promotion in Eight Months

JAKARTA — Indonesian President Suharto's son-in-law, who became a brigadier general when installed as head of the Kopassus Special Military Forces last December, has now become a major general, a report said Tuesday.

Army Chief General Hartono was quoted by the *Merdeka* daily as saying Prabowo Subianto had been promoted to the rank of major general but did not say when.

"Prabowo has already been promoted," Hartono said.

"What is left now is for him to report his promotion to the military chief."

There are two ranks in the Indonesian military above major general — lieutenant general and full general.

Prabowo, 44, came into the spotlight after his success in freeing nine of 11 hostages held by separatist rebels in the easternmost province of Irian Jaya in May.

A Kopassus operation led by Prabowo culminated in the freeing of the nine hostages, including six Europeans, who had been held by Free Papua Movement (OPM) rebels for more than four months in a mountainous, jungle-clad area of the province.

Two Indonesian hostages were killed by OPM rebels during the operation, according to the military.

Prabowo was promoted to brigadier general shortly before he was given command of Kopassus on December 4.

Hartono in June expanded Kopassus from 3,000 to 5,000 men and said the expanded force would need a major general to lead it.

Prabowo, married to Suharto's second daughter, Siti Hediati, has had a rapid rise in the Indonesian armed forces (ABRI) since he led the 1978 capture of Fretilin guerrilla leader Lobato in East Timor.

(AFP)

Probe of Political Groups Seeking Legal Status, to End This Month

LAGOS — The vetting of applications by political associations seeking official registration will end later this month, the National Electoral Commission of Nigeria (NECON) said Monday, as some parties voiced concern that conditions laid down by the military regime were too tough.

Of 23 political associations that obtained application forms after paying a mandatory non-refundable fee of 500,000 naira (U.S.$6,000), only 18 returned the forms before the July 25 deadline.

The process of checking out the claims made by the applicants regarding the number and identity of their members, began on August 2.

The claims made by the political associations in their forms, especially on the strength of their membership, their identities and location of party offices throughout the federation are being investigated by the NECON, the agency set up by the regime to organize and supervise elections during the period of transition.

Some press reports here alleged recently that some of the political parties picked the names and addresses of their claimed members from telephone directories and other general address books.

One of the tough conditions set by the NECON is that each of the political associations seeking registration should have a membership of 40,000 in each of the 30 states of the federation and 15,000 each in Abuja, the nation's federal capital. Another tough condition is that each of the groups should have offices in Abuja and two-thirds of all the municipalities in each state of the federation.

In order to meet these conditions set by the NECON as well as beat the deadline also set by the agency, some of the political associations which have similar objectives have been talking of merging.

Registration of political parties and production of authentic voters' register are some of the programs to be carried out this quarter under the transition program decided by military ruler General Sani Abacha.

The creation of additional new states, scheduled for the second quarter under the program, is yet to be carried out.

(AFP)

Mass Production of Paykan Rear Axle Parts and Steering Box Operational in Mashhad Rad Farman Factories and Majmoe Sazi Toos

The production line of Paykan rear axle parts (differential) and steering box was successfully implemented for the first time in Rad Farman Factory and Majmoe Sazi Toos.

The managing director of Rad Farman which is the first manufacturer of steering and suspension said, "The unit manufactures 50,000 Paykan rear axle parts and 30,000 steering box sets during the current year."



Ali Akbar Farsian told the minister of industries visiting Rad Farman Manufacturing Industrial Unit, "The aforesaid parts have been assembled since two years ago," and then added, "Most of them have been manufactured in Iran and the remaining low percent will be produced in the country by the end of 1997. In this way, we will save up around 50 million dollars for rear axle parts and 7.5 million dollars for complete steering box.

"By the end of current year, 20 percent dependence on foreign resources will be declined", he assured Ne'matzadeh.

Farsian added, "The steering box model of Paykan '97 (R.N.D.) as well as the rear axle model of Mazda 1600 van have been successfully made by the experts of Rad Farman Industrial Unit and sent to Iran Khodro Co. for the final quality test. The production line of them will be operational after the final approval.

"In the first phase, the factory manufactures and offers 35,000 steering boxes of the vehicle annually, functioning with Peugeot body and Paykan drive. "The manufacturing processes of gearbox (R.N.D.) have been carefully studied and we have no problems for making the steering and suspension components."

He revealed that the manufacturing industrial unit has started to produce 300,000 different kinds of Paykan fulcrum and middle rod pieces per year since 1981 adding, "To accomplish the development plan, the unit — during the last three years — with a 5-billion-rial and 5-million-dollar capital, has succeeded to increase its production capacity to one million pieces yearly.

"At present, Rad Farman Unit manufactures the steering and suspension components of 20 kinds of light and heavy vehicles. But due to lack of raw material, it works with 30 percent below the nominal capacity.

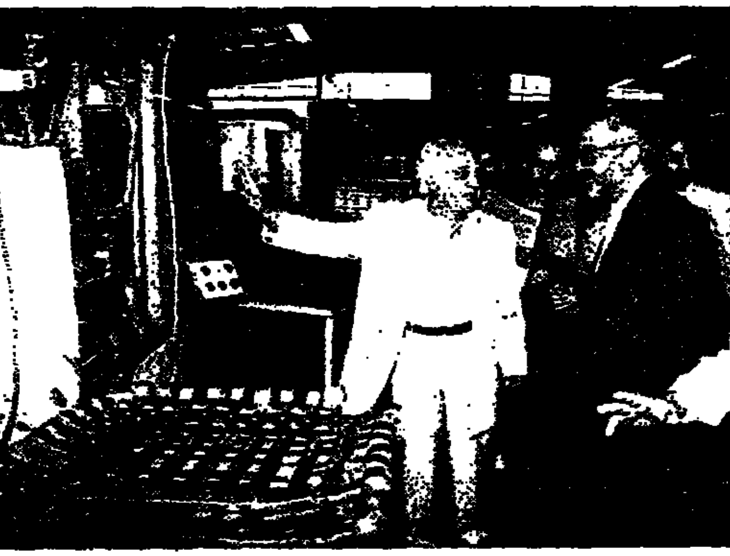
"It is worth noting that, 10 percent of this unit's products is exported to European countries, northern Africa, and Persian Gulf littoral states in order to provide a portion of needed hard currency," Rad Farman managing director briefed the minister of industries.

Farsian who pointed out that the production line machinery should be reconstructed and also replaced, said, "Unlike the past, 50 percent of machinery parts will be supplied through domestic production and the rest will be imported.

"The unit's experts due to the country's arduous roads and the necessity of considering stability and safety factors have carefully applied the proper alloys and raw materials for the machinery and in this way they have succeeded to improve their quality by 30 percent when compared with the similar foreign ones.

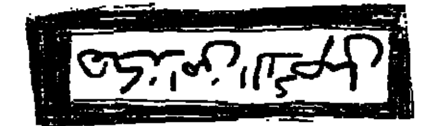
"The inspection units of Pars Data and SAP Co. check our products' quality. The above-mentioned companies support us financially and technically. We hereby express our gratitude to them."

The minister of industries and his aides inspected the manufacturing unit with the aim of getting familiar with the difficulties of the manufacturers of vehicle parts and also evaluating their capabilities. Engineer Ne'matzadeh underlined that the vehicle parts should be made by the domestic manufacturing units. He added that the Ministry of Industries intends to encourage the industrialists to utilize the potential facilities and existing materials to manufacture high-quality products being comparable with the modern overseas ones, according to our reporter.



The minister of industries described the research, investigation, and cooperating with the universities as the effective factors of increasing the efficiency and improving the quality of industrial goods. He expressed hope that the industrialists make every effort to bring self-sufficiency for the country as soon as possible.

The minister of industries also put great stress on supporting the industries.



Lung Disease Threatens African Beef Industry

PIETERSBURG, South Africa — A new outbreak of cow lung disease in Southern Africa poses a serious threat to the region's cattle herds and its beef industry, South African farmers warned recently.

Dries Bruwer, president of the Transvaal Agricultural Union in South Africa, said the disease had recently been diagnosed in neighboring states where there are little or no preventative measures and the epidemic could move across borders.

Farmers here said cow lung disease had been found in Ngami, Botswana, where 250,000 head of cattle have already been culled.

"Once lung disease is diagnosed, whole herds of cattle have to be destroyed to prevent spreading of the disease," Bruwer said.

The union has asked South Africa's national farming body to pressure other members of the 12-state Southern African Development Community (SADC) to inoculate their cattle.

"Unless drastic steps are taken to force SADC members to use available South African technology and vaccine to eradicate the disease or contain it ... the South African red meat industry could be harmed for a very long period and suffer losses amounting to millions of rands," Bruwer said.

Gert Roets, the chairman of the Red Meat Producers Organization in South Africa's Northern Province, said South African vets do not have the resources to police borders where infected cattle might be brought into the country.

He told the SAPA news agency that the government would have to consider deploying the army to prevent the influx of infected cattle.

While lung disease was not harmful to beef consumers, Roets said, it "poses a bigger threat" to South Africa's red meat industry than so-called "mad cow" disease, which prompted the banning of British beef imports to South Africa.

(AFP)

Cosmonaut May Be Switched

MOSCOW – The two Russian cosmonauts due to leave earth on a joint Franco-Russian mission to the MIR space station on August 17 will probably be replaced after one of the pair developed heart problems, the agency Interfax said recently.

Commander Gennady Manakov was found to have "minor" cardiac problems during a recent routine medical examination.

A definitive decision on replacing him and fellow cosmonaut Pavel Vinogradov should be made by the direction of the Russian space agency on Monday. The reserve crew of Valery Korzun and Alexandre Kelery would take over if necessary.

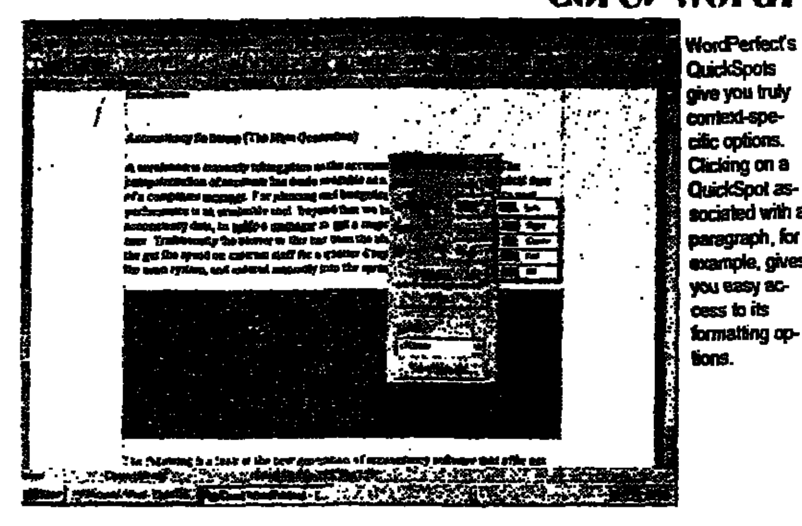
However, the French member of the two-week mission, Claudie-Andre Deshays will be on board the Soyuz TM-24 MM regardless of any change in the Russian personnel.

The mission, named Cassiopeia, has been postponed several times for technical reasons, but is scheduled to finally blast off at 19.17 (13:17 GMT) on August 17 form Baikonor in Kazakhstan.

(AFP)

First Looks

Corel WordPerfect Suite 7



WordPerfect's QuickSpots give you truly context-specific options. Clicking on a QuickSpot associated with a paragraph, for example, gives you easy access to its formatting options.

With full 32-bit implementations, WordPerfect Suite is once again a contender in the desktop applications market. With lots of new functionality and a number of usability innovations, WordPerfect could be making a comeback.

Corel WordPerfect Suite 7 includes the eagerly awaited 32-bit versions of WordPerfect and Quattro Pro. Also featured are WordPerfect Presentations, CorelFLOW, CorelWEBsiteBuilder and host of utilities — SideKick, Dashboard and Envoy — plus a generous helping of True-Type fonts. Being the professional release, there's also a copy of Paradox for Windows.

A complete installation takes up around 220 Mb of hard disk space, but the three core applications — WordPerfect, Quattro Pro and WordPerfect Presentations — only need about 130Mb. Additional tools include an Internet Publisher, which creates Web pages, and IBM's VoiceType Control utility, which lets you drive your Windows PC by voice only (dictation not included).

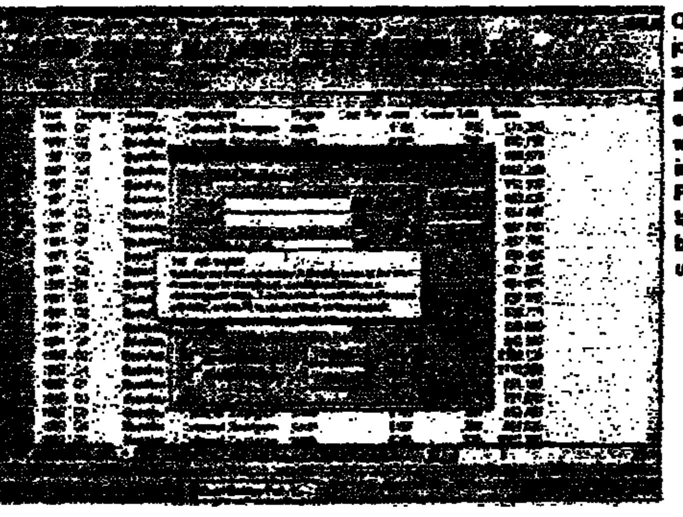
Corel WordPerfect Suite 7's competition is going to come from Microsoft Office. Corel has consequently shied away from the 'me too'-style features lists. The package manages to add both usability and functionality but in a package that's not what we've come to expect from existing Office suites. Most of the new functions and usability enhancements are concentrated in WordPerfect.

The word processor now features on-the-fly spell checking called Spell As You Go (Microsoft already having made use of the obvious name). All the other features that Microsoft Word offers, such as customizable toolbars and OLE 2.0 in-place editing, are all supported. WordPerfect has added some nice touches, however, such as the mouse pointed shadow; this is where the cursor hovers just underneath the mouse pointer, so you can easily see where the cursor is going to appear when you click your mouse.

Elements standard across the suit include a common dialog boxes (although not Windows 95's), a suite-wide scripting language, and what Corel calls Powerbars. These strips appear under the main application menu and give quick and easy access to fonts, size, styles, alignment, line spaces, tables, columns and zoom features. These are customizable and further augmented by WordPerfect's context-sensitive menus. Like Word for Windows' context-sensitive menus, these given you access to paragraph formatting and spell checking, but you can also get WordPerfect to 'reveal codes', which brings up a pane displaying the formatting codes familiar to veteran WordPerfect users.

Apart from the text, graphics, Watermarks and OLE 2.0 objects that you'd expect to be able to embed in your WordPerfect documents, you can now also embed URL references. Double-clicking on one of these will take you to your browser and load the appropriate Web page for you. This can also be extended to other services, such as CompuServe. Guidelines are a new addition and allow you to format your margins visually with the mouse. Also new are QuickSpots, which give fast access to formatting, and appear as small grey buttons in the left-hand margin with the relevant formatting. Lastly QuickFormat and Make It Fit will automatically apply formatting options as you type and reformat a document to fit on a page using any constraints you define.

Quattro Pro 7 also benefits from this latest upgrade. It has over 100 new functions, bringing it in line with some of the more sophisticated functions of Excel and Lotus 1-2-3. In-cell editing is now also supported, making for cell editing is now also supported, making for an more intuitive overall spreadsheet application. Quick templates, a Quickfill feature and context-sensitive menus on right-hand mouse button clicks complete the picture. Database functionability is provided by Paradox 7. This is essentially the same product as the last version, but with a few cosmetic changes to make it fit into the suite.



Quattro Pro enjoys all the suite-wide usability enhancements, which include the PowerBar, tabbed dialog boxes and pop-up help.

WordPerfect Presentations has never enjoyed best-of-breed status, but this latest release brings it a lot closer to PowerPoint and Freelance. ActionLinks let you set up single-click access points to other slides or Web pages. Slides or whole presentations can be easily converted to HTML, and a range of animation and transition effects has been added to give you as much flexibility in your presentation as you need.

Apart from all three of the packages being Web enabled, they provide e-mail functionality, allowing you to send your documents, spreadsheets and presentations directly from within your application. Files can be sent using the Windows 95 Inbox, VIM, Grouop-Wise or Lotus Notes.

In terms of sheer volume, Corel's WordPerfect Suite 7 leaves the others standing. Just about every piece of software that you're likely to need for business computing is supplied, and what isn't will have already been supplied with Windows 95. The real test, however, will be how it fares in the coming months. *(PC Magazine)*

"Renoirmania" Has New England in Its Grasp

WILLIAMSTOWN, Massachusetts — The American passion for impressionism is alive and well at the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute, now showing its 33 Renoirs together for the first time since 1955.

Nearly 5,000 people have rushed to see the works since the exhibition opened at this small museum nestled in the Berkshire mountains west of Boston.

"People are positively crazy about Renoir," Sterling Clark wrote in his diary. Clark, who lived from 1877 to 1956, put his life and his singer sewing-machine fortune into collecting art from Italian primitives to Winslow Homer.

While Albert Barnes or J. Paul Getty built great collections with great fanfare and plans to use them to educate the masses, Clark went daily to New York galleries in utmost secrecy, said Michael Conforti, director of the museum.

While Albert Barnes or J. Paul Getty built great collections with great fanfare and plans to use them to educate the masses, Clark went daily to New York galleries in utmost secrecy.

"He was almost secretive about (his collection), and when he lent works of art for exhibition, he did so anonymously," said curator Steven Kern.

Another stark difference with the major U.S. collectors of the early 20th century is that "Sterling Clark never wanted to impose his taste and ideas on anybody," Kern said.

Francine and Sterling met around 1910 in Paris where she was playing a supporting role in French comedy, and she was "a primary force" in convincing her husband to go from the old masters to impressionists, he added.

"Francine was right, it is a marvellous painting," Clark noted in his collectors notebook in 1926 about the purchase of "Sleeping Girl With a Cat".

"She thought it a marvel," he wrote about "Blonde Bather", a canvas which he thought had weak composition and drawing, but which he ended up buying.

It is the early Renoir, up to 1882, that drew the fancy of the Clarks, before the "strawberry color women, all flesh, no bones," as he had written.

From "A Girl Crocheting", purchased in 1916, to "Apples in a Dish" acquired in 1951, the Clarks had assembled 38 works by the impressionist master. The museum sold off five over the years.

The Clarks chose Williamstown, population 8,000 plus 2,400 students, as the site for their museum because of its Long University tradition, and, ever careful, because they thought the small town offered better shelter than a big city in case of a nuclear attack.

(AFP)

SABI ANIGO, Spain (Espana) (August 9): Spanish Guardia civil and Red Cross members carry the body of one of the flood victims at Nieves capsite. Rescuers today searhed for more victims of the Ausust 8 flood disaster that left at least 70 dead and the number of those missing feared to be as high as 40.

(AFP PHOTO)

China Sitting on Vast Untapped Energy Reserves

BEIJING — China is sitting on billions of tons of undiscovered reserves of oil, coal and mineral resources, an official said in published comments Monday, forecasting major mineral finds in the southwest of the country.

Scientists have discovered only 17 percent of available oil reserves and only 28 percent of coal reserves, He Zianjie, an official from the Ministry of Geology and Mineral Resources, was quoted as saying in the *China Daily*.

"China should have 4,000 billion tons of coal at layers less than 1,000 meters (3,000 feet). Yet the country so far only claims 1,000 billion tons of proved coal reserves," he said.

The ministry did not immediately comment on how the figures for undiscovered resources were reached, although he said "the country's complex geological history and long geological history gave it large mineral deposits long ago."

(Contd on Pg.14)

America's Worst Judges

Judges are among our most powerful public officials. They are invested with unparalleled independence and, in many cases lifetime tenure to insulate them from influence and pressure. But what happens to them when they wield their power irresponsibly and twist the laws they are sworn to uphold ?.

Judges are among our most powerful public officials. They are invested with unparalleled independence and, in many cases, lifetime tenure to insulate them from influence and pressure. But what happens to them when they wield their power irresponsibly and twist the laws they are sworn to uphold?

Usually, not that much. Judges are monitored, in most cases, by fellow judges, who are reluctant to penalize one of their own.

Even state judicial review panels established to discipline judges rarely deliver serious punishment.

Readers Digest reviews thousands of pages of court records and interviewed scores of prosecutors, defends attorneys, judges deserve the respect paid to them. But, as the investigation reveals, a disturbing number do not. Here is a spotlight on seven of the worst.

Bradford C. Timbers
Lehigh County, Pa.

Almost immediately after he was sworn in as a district justice in Allen town, Pa. Bradford Timbers began drinking on the job, repeatedly using vulgar language and even slapping a secretary on the buttocks. The court's top judge warned him in a memo to stop "consuming alcoholic beverages while on duty."

Not long after, during a session on night court, Timbers went over the edge. A court secretary said he showed up with a "glassy bloodshot eyes, slurred speech, a disheveled appearance and an unsteady walks."

A man charged with assaulting his friend came before the judge for a preliminary arraignment. Timbers could not remember how to conduct the proceeding, asking the court secretary, "What do I do?" Timber then dismissed the charge and released the defendant-a complete violation of the rules of state criminal procedure.

After watching this display, the court secretary called for help. When the police and another district judge arrived, Timbers cursed them and called the judge a "fat bitch".

The state Judicial Conduct Board charged Timbers with 42 counts of misconduct, in April, he was suspected for six months without pay.

In their dissent, two judges said Timbers should be removed permanently: Thy believed "the public's confidence in his position as a judicial officer has been irreparably harmed by his conduct."

The chief district judge has filed an appeal, seeking Timbers's ouster.

Timbers return to the bench in October.

Mark Kennedy
Montgomery, Ala.

In a state where judges are elected just like politicians, they also champaign just like politicians. Especially when it comes to contributions.

In the case of Alabama Supreme Court Justice Mark Kennedy, the campaign contributions totaled more than $400,000 from trial lawyers and their political action committees in his reelection two years ago. "We cannot allow the opposition to make a mockery of our court," he wrote in a solicitation memo to "Members of Alabama Trial Lawyers Association." Many who contributed were trying cases before him.

Alabama trial lawyers have a big stake in what the state supreme court decides because they receive between 30 and 50 percent of the money their clients win. The Alabama Supreme Court has upheld some of the biggest punitive damage awards in the country-often with no relation to actual damages-and Justice Kennedy has been instrumental in many of these.

One of the most notorious involved Dr. Ira Gore, Jr., of Birmingham, who sued BMW for, fraud and breach of contract when he learned they had refinished his car to correct some superficial paint damage before selling it to him. The touch-up was so minor that Gore has never noticed any flaw.

Gore won his case in state court. The jury awarded him $4000 to compensate for the car's diminished value, and a whopping $4 million in punitive damages. The judgement was appealed to the Alabama Supreme Court.

While the case was pending, one of Gore's lawyers, Bruce McKee, personally contributed $1500 to Kennedy. In addition, his law firm had contributed $123,000 to Kennedy and three other members of the court between 1992 and 1994. Kennedy and his colleagues cut the $4 million in half, calling this amount "reasonable".

Last may, the U.S. Supreme Court threw out the $2 million award. As *The Wall Street Journal* noted, it was justice actually struck down such an award as excessive."

In another case, George and Judy Sheridan lost $12,000 to a crooked insurance agent from Northwestern Mutual Life. They sued the company and a jury awarded them $800,000, plus $25 million in punitive damages. As the validity of the award was being considered by the Alabama Supreme Court, attorneys from both sides offered financial backing to Kennedy's campaign. The Sheridan's lawyers contributed $10,000 to Kennedy. He and the other justice voted to award the Sheridans almost $13 million in damages.

Says David Bernstein, a law professor at Virginia's George Mason University:" I don't see how a judge can preside over a case presented by lawyers who have given him campaign contributions. It is truly bizarre."

Rosemary Barkett
Miami, Fla.

In 1993, fifth-grader LaShonda Davis of Forsyth, Ga., told her mother that a boy, in her class was pestering her with rude sexual advances. Her mother Aurelia, complained to the elementary school.

Then in May 1994, Aurelia Davis sued the country board of education, the superintendent and principal for $1 million. The suit claimed that officials has a federally mandated obligation to protect LaShonda from classmates' "sexual harassment."

A U.S. District Court judge threw out the suit, saying it had "no basis" because the law under which the suit was brought applied to school employees, not students. But when the case went to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit, Judge Rosemary Barkett saw things differently. She wrote the opinion overturning the lower court, in what the dissenting judge called "an unprecedented extension" of the law. Barkett's ruling created a federal civil rights action for elementary school children who annoy each other.

"Decisions like this could cost taxpayers untold millions," notes Clint Bolick, litigation director of the Institute for Justice in Washington, D.C. "Unless the decision is overturned or Congress amends the statute, every school district in America is at risk of schoolyard bullies exposing them to federal lawsuits."

It was not Barkett's first controversial opinion. Prior to being nominated to the appeals court by President Clinton, Barkett served nine years on the Florida Supreme Court. One case there involved Timothy Hudson, who broke into a house, stabbed a woman to death and dumped her here body in a drainage ditch. He was sentenced to death. On appeal, Barkett voted against the death penalty. She cited approvingly the trial judge's finding that Hudson "was apparently surprised by the victims during his burglarizing of the home" and thus "unable to conform his conduct to the requirements of law."

In another dissent, Barkett argued that a man injured by his General Motors pickup truck should be able to sue the automaker. The man had improperly jacked his truck up and placed his head inside the wheel well, all the while ignoring a warning sticker. The district court dismissed the case and was affirmed by a majority of Barketts' 11th Circuit colleagues. But Barkett alone thought the case should go to trial. Her rationale? GM's warning label may have been inadequate because the man was illiterate.

Like all federal judge, Barkett has a lifetime appointment. Her rulings bind other judges in similar cases throughout her circuit, her circuit, which includes Florida, Georgia and Alabama.

Charles McRae
Jackson, Miss.

Lee Outlaw was riding his bike on a straight, flat two-lane road near Tupelo, Miss., when a red Ford suddenly swerved out of the oncoming lane and hit the 21-year-old head on. He ended up with a severely broken leg, 1000 stitches and permanent scarring. The driver, Ronnie Estes, was convicted of negligent injury while intoxicated and sentenced o five years in prison. Estes's appeal to the Mississippi Supreme Court was denied, but Justice Charles McRae dissented. Estes's breathalyzer test, showing twice the legal amount of alcoholic in his system, should not have been admissible at trial, McRae asserted. He argued that any person so inebriated as to fail such a test could not knowingly and intelligently waive his right to refuse to take the test.

In the same opinion McRae wrote: "I cannot emphasize strongly enough my abhorrence for the all-too-common practice of driving under the influence of alcohol."

Two-and-a-half years later, in February 1995, Justice McRae himself was arrested for drunk driving after crashing his Chevrolet Camaro into a row of pine trees outside Jackson. After being read his rights, McRae refused to take the breath test without his lawyer's advice.

When authorities sought to suspend his license, McRae commenced a fierce legal battle claiming his constitutional rights were being violated. Soon drunk drivers across the state were employing what their attorneys come to call "the McRae defense."

Shortly before his trial on drunk-driving charged, McRae pleaded no contest. The *Clarion-Ledger* called on him to resign "to give some dignity back to the court. McRae has tried to beat the system every way he could."

Last January, the state Commission on Judicial Performance recommended that McRae be publicly censured for "conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice" — one of the lightest sanctions possible. And McRae continues to sit on Mississippi's highest court, earning $90,800 a year. He routinely hears wide range of cases up for appeal that can include drunk-driving convictions.

Lorin Duchman
New York City

Last December Galina Komar, finance manager at a Queens, N.Y. car dealership, called the police and had her friend, Benito Oliver, arrested. She also sought a court order of protection. He had held a butcher's knife to her throat and hurt her.

He had been beating her for nearly a year and threatened to kill her and her mother if she told anyone.

The question of Oliver's bail came before Judge Lorin Duckman in Brooklyn Criminal Court. Oliver had four previous felony convictions for rape, gun and drug possession, and threatening a witness. He had spent seven years in prison. Prosecutors cited the threats Komar had received and the reasons she feared Oliver. At one point Duchman responded by minimizing the severity of Komar's latest injuries. "There is no actual physical injury, is there, other than some bruising?" he asked.

Discussion arose of Oliver's calls to Komar from jail demanding she return his pet dog. When prosecutors attempted to steer the judge away from the dog and focus on Oliver's harassing calls, Duckman snapped, "He has been in jail long enough for a person who is charged with these crimes. I want to know about the dog." Concluded Duckman: "The return of the dog to him will assure there is no further violence in this case." He released Oliver last January 24 and granted Komar only limited protection.

Three weeks later, Oliver shot Komar in the head while she sat at her desk at work. She died instantly. He then killed himself.

New York governor and the mayor of New York City called for Duckman's removal from the bench. The ensuing public uproar led to further revelations:

In August 1995, Duckman released Maximo Pena on probation after a jury convicted him of attacking his friend. Six months later Pena was arrested and charged with dragging her down two flights of stairs by her hair and punching her in the face.

When Rafael Torres was charged with attempted murder for slashing an acquaintance, prosecutors asked for $50,000 bail. Duckman set it at $750. The attack, he said, was an incident." adding, "basically they are friends." Torres skipped bail. He was later caught and pleaded guilty to assault charges.

Another case involved a man who allegedly punched his 13-year-old son and repeatedly hit him with a belt. When his wife tried to intervene, the man allegedly slapped her and threw her around the room. Duckman demanded pictures of her injuries; when told there were none, he said, "So all you have basically is somebody slaps somebody with a belt and pushes them into a wall."

The State Commission on Judicial Conduct is investigating Duckman's actions. But he is still on the bench, allowed to hear civil cases.

James R. Giddings
Ingham County, Michigan

When convicted shotgun murderer john Cain filed a lawsuit from prison, no one imagined the case would drag on eight years later. In fact, it has mushroomed, with Ingham County Circuit Court Judge James Diddings at the center of the controversy.

The case arose after two corrections officers were murdered by prisoners, one using a homemade knife. The state Department of Corrections (DOC) decided to restrict personal property, some of which could be converted into weapons. That's when Cain Sued. He was joined by Taymond Walen, serving life sentences for the firebombing murder of two girls, ages five and nine; convicted murderer Delbert Faulkner, who shot a man six times while trying to steal his motorcycle.

Giddings immediately issued a temporary restraining order blocking the new prison policy. Eight years later the case is still awaiting trial.

In the meantime, the DOC cannot ban any personal property without first receiving Giddings' permission. Thus it took months of hearings and negotiations with prisoners before the department was allowed to confiscate plastic coat hangers, ceramic mugs and insulated plastic cups, items that had been used as weapons or as containers for illegal drugs. The department had to provide prisoners with replacements, at a cost of taxpayers of over $30,000.

Ciddings also ordered that prisoners who testifies in the case should receive witness fees. This prompted Gov. John Engler to label Diddins a "lunatic." The policy was wiped out by the state legislature in 1994.

The infamous eight-year case has cost taxpayers more that $500,000 for the transport of prisoners to the judge's courtroom as well as for legal costs and staff time. Diddins even advised prisoners to get their own press agent to handle media inquiries. They selected the sister of one of the plaintiffs.

In a separate case, Giddings awarded over $67,000 to an inmate who had set fire to his cell and then sued the DOC for his injuries claiming there should be a smoke detector in every cell. As with a high percentage of his cases involving the state, Giddings' ruling here was overturned by a higher court.

David Ramirez
Denver, Colo.

In Denver last January, 14-year-old Adam Remero watched as a friend shot a 14-year-old girl in the head, then helped drag her to a nearby field where she was left to die. The boy who pulled the trigger pleaded guilty, and Tomero was convicted by a jury of being an accessory to manslaughter. Prosecutors sought the maximum sentence of two years in a juvenile facility. They were stunned when Juvenile Court Judge David Ramirez gave Romero probation.

Ramirez handles 80 percent of Denver's delinquency cases. Because of his indulgent attitude and light sentences, the 43-year-old judge is nicknamed Uncle Dave by delinquent.

In a series of articles, the Rocky Mountain News chronicled other Ramirez sentences. He placed on probation a 16-year-old who was convicted of assaulting his 11-ear-old stepsister. He assigned a mere $50 fine to an 18-year-old who, when caught fleeing the scene of a hit-and-run accident, had attacked the police officer and motorist who corralled him.

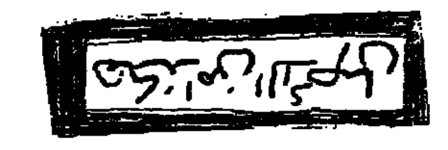
Last October, Steven John Toyba, a 14-year-old wanted by the police, allegedly attacked two Denver police officers with a knife as they were investigating a report of a prowler. While Toybal waited in the county jail to face attempted-murder charges as an adult, Ramirez tried to transfer him to a juvenile facility. The issue was resolved only when the Colorado Supreme Court ruled that Ramirez has no jurisdiction over Roybal.

Joseph C'de Baca, a Denver middle-school teacher, hears his students calling Ramirez's juvenile court a joke and laughing about it being a day off from school. Says C'de Baca: "He's trying to be a guardian angel to these kids, but he's actually making them worse criminals."

Admits one 17-year-old who was given probation repeatedly only to go on to commit a string of burglaries and car thefts that finally landed him in jail: "Uncle Dave didn't do me any favors."

Reform is necessary; greater public scrutiny of judicial appointments and tightened judicial-review procedures are long overdue. Notes former U.S. Attorney General Dick Thornburgh, "Without independent, professionally qualified and capable judges, public confidence in the courts is eroded, and the rule of law cannot exist."

Elena Sassoer of the Center for Judicial Accountability, a judicial watchdog group, is among those who are concerned for the system. "The selection process isn't choosing the best judges, and the disciplinary process isn't getting rid of the worst judges," she says. Indeed, a 1993 national commission, for example, found that 95 percent of all complaint against federal judges are dismissed summarily by other federal judges put in place to review them. At the state level. New York is supposed to have the nation's top judicial oversight organization. Over 85 percent of complaints are dismissed without investigation.



'Not Your Classic Coup'

Just after 2 p.m. Thursday, August 1, 1996, the state-run radio in Burundi suddenly fell silent. At almost the same moment, Tutsi soldiers closed the international airport and sealed the country's borders. Other soldiers took up positions at major intersections and blocked off the road leading to the U.S. ambassador's residence, where Burundi's Hutu president, fearing for his life, had taken refuge earlier in the week. A strange calm invaded Bujumbura, the capital: Shopkeepers pulled down their shutters and hurried home. People got off the streets. At 4 p.m., Radio Burundi came back on the air and confirmed what most people already knew: The military had seized power once again.



Death in the countryside: Soldiers walk past victims of the July 20 massacre by Hutu rebels

"The politicians have failed to solve (Burundi's) problems, and we have decided the country cannot continue like this," a military spokesman declared. Burundi's "problems" are like those that in 1994 tore apart neighboring Rwanda: Ethnic warfare between the Hutus (85 percent of Burundi's 6 million population) and Tutsis (who account for only 14 percent but who dominate the army and government). In the past three years, fighting between Burundi's government and Hutu rebels has claimed an estimated 150,000 lives. The main casualty of the army coup was a coalition government led, since 1994, by Sylvestre Ntibantunganya. Now Burundi has a military junta and a dictator, Pierre Buyoya, a Tutsi officer who had ruled the country for six years following an earlier coup in 1987. This could be the start of an equally long reign. Or something worse.

Predictably, many foreign governments and international organizations denounced the overthrow. Buyoya sought to reassure them. "What happened today was not a change of regime through ambition, glory or anything else," he said in a radio broadcast. "What happened today was a salvation."

That probably goes too far, but some Western diplomats conceded that the coup could have been much uglier. "This is not the worst-case scenario because it's not your classic bloody coup in the middle of the night," said U.S. Embassy spokeswoman Judith Mudd Kaula. And despite having stage his own grab for power nine years ago, Buyoya, 46, is considered something of a moderate: In 1993 he relinquished power and permitted democratic elections. In recognition, he has received about $150,000 in grants from the U.S. Agency for International Development since 1994 for his nongovernmental Foundation for Peace, Unity and Democracy.

On the streets of Bujumbura, life quickly returned to normal. At his home overlooking Lake Tanganyika, Buyoya told *Newsweek*: "These are serious times. There is nothing to smile about." Indeed, relief workers reported that clashes between Hutus and Tutsis continued as before in the countryside. The deadliest of them recently was a brutal Hutu massacre on July 20 of more than 300 Tutsi civilians in a displaced persons camp in Bugendena, 45 miles outside Bujumbura. Many of the victims were women and children. When Ntibantunganya attended their funeral, Tutsis in the crowd pelted him with stones and cow dung. Tutsi soldiers at the scene did nothing to protect him and he fled in his helicopter. The following day the leading Tutsi party in the president's feeble coalition withdrew its support for the government, accused him of supporting Hutu rebel forces and called for his overthrow. Frightened by this revolt and by growing demonstrations by Tutsi youths calling for his removal, Ntibantunganya fled — to the U.S. ambassador's residence.

For months the Clinton administration has tried to head off a crisis in Burundi. The American goal was to establish a peacekeeping force made up of African nations: Washington would offer logistical support. A team of U.S. military planners had been in the region for two weeks trying to put together such a force. But Burundians themselves were unable to agree on a peacekeeping force's makeup or mission. Washington and other Western powers are divided over who should take the lead in intervening in Burundi.

Now those concerned for Burundi can only hope that Buyoya is able to pull off some kind of miracle. Otherwise, Burundi's Tutsi army and Hutu rebels could opt for total war. If that should happen, hundreds of thousands of civilians would likely be killed in the crossfire — a dreadful repeat of the genocidal slaughter that descended on Rwanda and that, for a few brief weeks, tweaked the conscience of the world. *(Courtesy Newsweek)*

London Demands Explanations on Nuclear Incidents From U.S.

LONDON — The British government is to ask the United States for explanations over nuclear incidents which reportedly took place at U.S. bases in Britain during the 1950s, a Defense Ministry spokesman said here on Monday.

"We have asked the Americans for any information they might have," a spokesman said.

"But we repeat that there have been no nuclear accidents involving the release of radioactive material in the UK," he continued. "At the most we are talking of scratches to nuclear weapons."

On Sunday, the *Observer* newspaper reported that the government deliberately kept quiet about several incidents involving nuclear weapons.

The paper said documents obtained from the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND), showed that at least four incidents were concealed from the public between 1957 and 1961.

Two fires occurred in 1957 and 1958 at Greenham Common Airbase in Berkshire, west of London, the paper said. The first involved a U.S. B-47 aircraft loaded with a nuclear bomb. The other two incidents reported concerned errors made while manipulating nuclear bombs at a Royal Air Force base in 1959 and by a U.S. aircraft in 1961 at an unspecified location in Britain.

Early in the sixties, scientists found traces of enriched uranium and lithium within a radius of 12 kilometers (7.5 miles) round Greenham Common Airbase, the *Observer* reported, adding that an unexplained rash of leukemia cases had occurred in the area concerned. (AFP)

Taiwan to Ground Aging F-104 Fighter Jets

TAIPEI — Taiwan will ground its aging fleet of F-104 fighter jets from next July because of lack of spare parts and an increasingly poor safety record, military officials said Monday.

They refused to give an exact date but said the "20 to 30" F-104s still in service would be decommissioned "around mid-1997."

The state-funded Central News Agency (CNA), quoting a military source, said all of the 36-year-old aircraft would be grounded from July 1.

The decision came one day after an F-104 crashed in the sea off Matsu, a major defense outpost near China, the officials said, in the latest in a series of accidents involving Taiwan's F-104s. Both pilots ejected from the aircraft and were rescued in Sunday's crash.

The military officials said the planes would be decommissioned after Taiwan takes delivery of the first batches of new warplanes from the United States and France next year.

Taiwan has ordered 150 top-of-the-range F-16 fighter jets from the United States and 60 Mirage 2000-5S from France. First batches of the planes are scheduled to be delivered here in the first half of next year.

Taiwan originally had some 200 F-104s, built by United States manufacturer Lockheed, but most have either been dismantled or are grounded because of lack of maintenance. Spare parts have not been in production for the last decade.

The F-104s still in service are no longer on standby for combat missions but are used for coastal patrols and surveillance. Taiwan's F-5ES will take over those duties when the F-104s are decommissioned, CNA reported. (AFP)

No Apologies for Holomisa, Says Mandela

JOHANNESBURG — President Nelson Mandela said Monday his ruling African National Congress (ANC) would not apologize to sacked Deputy Minister Bantu Holomisa for branding him a liar.

"No apology will be made to Holomisa," Mandela told reporters during a visit to sprawling Soweto black township near here. "We owe no one an apology."

Holomisa, according to the SAPA news agency, accepted the president's view and said, "I won't argue with my dad. I am just thankful that he confirmed the donation."

At the weekend, Mandela confirmed claims by Holomisa that the ANC had received a sum of money from Hotel Magnate Sol Kerzner as a contribution to its election fund prior to the historic 1994 all-race election.

While he did not at the weekend mention a sum, on Monday he confirmed Holomisa's claims that it was two million rand ($440,000).

The weekend confirmation prompted Holomisa to demand an apology from the ANC, which had repeatedly denied his claims.

Mandela on Monday said he was the only one who knew where the money had come from and it was understandable, therefore, that ANC leaders had branded Holomisa a liar.



Despite this, no apology was due Holomisa.

"Even if there was anyone in the ANC who will recommend that an apology be made, I will overrule it," Mandela said. "The whole thing is a storm in a tea cup."

He repeated denials he made at the weekend that Kerzner gave the money in return for protection from bribery charges.

The tycoon, who founded the Sun International Hotel and Casino Group, is the subject of a criminal investigation into allegations that he bribed the government of now-defunct Transkei tribal homeland to acquire a casino license.

The alleged bribe dates back to the mid-1980s but Kerzner, who built an extensive and profitable casino empire in apartheid's quasi-independent tribal homelands, has not yet appeared in court.

Mandela sacked Holomisa in July after the Maverick deputy environment and tourism minister claimed Public Enterprises Minister Stella Sigcau, formerly prime minister of Transkei, of accepting a cut from Kerzner's alleged bribe.

Holomisa and Sigcau, although now both members of the ANC, have a longstanding animosity that dates back to 1989 when Holomisa, as head of the Transkei Army, overthrew her government in a bloodless coup and ruled the homeland until the 1994 poll when it was reincorporated into South Africa.

Holomisa, a popular leader among rank and file ANC supporters, on Wednesday is due to face an ANC disciplinary committee for breaching party discipline. (AFP)

U.S. Republican Convention Targets UN

UNITED NATIONS -- The United Nations is being battered again by the Republicans, singled out for criticism by U.S. presidential hopeful Bob Dole and in his party's political platform ahead of the November election.

But despite the anti-UN rhetoric which has marked the Republicans' campaign, UN officials and diplomats in New York do not expect the United Nations to become a major issue in the final run-up to the U.S. vote.

The officials here maintain that U.S. electoral concerns are more focused on domestic problems such as education and welfare.

In comments Sunday after arriving for the San Diego, California convention at which delegates are to seal his nomination later in the week, Dole warned, "When I'm president of the United States our men and women in uniform will never serve under the pale blue flag of the United Nations."

Ramming home the point, the Republicans' platform affirms, "Republicans will not subordinate United States sovereignty to any international authority."

"We oppose the commitment of American troops to UN "peacekeeping" operations under foreign commanders and will never compel American servicemen to wear foreign uniforms or insignia. We will insist on an end to waste, mismanagement and fraud at the United Nations," the platform says.

UN spokeswoman Sylvana Foa said that "in this election year the theme of waste at the United Nations is a very popular refrain."

But, she added, "Ironically, the only major fraud uncovered this year was committed by an American," referring to a Geneva administrator suspected of fraudulently diverting more than $600,000 in allowances and expenses.

UN officials have become used to the "cheap shots" of the Dole campaign, which they say plays on U.S. isolationism to fuel fears of UN black helicopters swooping into U.S. communities to impose the will of the "world government".

Dole has often accused U.S. President Bill Clinton of surrendering U.S. leadership to UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, an Egyptian.

But the Clinton administration is seeking to deflect such criticism with its drive to oust the 73-year-old UN chief when his five-year term expires at the end of December.

Commenting on the Republicans' platform pledge not to subordinate U.S. soldiers to "foreign commanders" and "international authority", Foa said that this was a misconception as "the UN belongs to all of us," referring to the 185 member states which make up the world body.

UN relations with Washington have been tense since the Republican electoral landslide in November 1994, following a downturn in 1993 when 18 U.S. rangers were killed in Somalia.

The U.S. Congress is still refusing to pay off $1.5 billion owed by Washington to the United Nations until it is satisfied with UN reform efforts. One Democratic congressman, Lee Hamilton, warned last month that the funds would not be released as long as Boutros-Ghali remained secretary general. (AFP)